

2
Haigh for Deuonshire.

A pleasant Discourse of fixe gallant Marchants of Deuonshire.

Their liues, Aduentures and Trauailes : With
sundrie their rare shoues and pastimes shewed
before the King in Exeter.

*Besides many pretie mery leasts by them performed:
as well in forraine Countries, as in their owne.*

Very delightfull for the Reader.

Written by H. R.



L O N D O N

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neare Friday-streete. 1600.

TO THE WOR:

shipfull and most toward Gentleman, accomplisht with all vertues and graces of true Gentilitie, *Henry Cromwell*: sonne and heire to the honoured *Oliner Cromwell* Esquire, high Sheriffe of the Counties of *Cambridge and Huntington*: H. R. your Worships
*professed humble servant, wisheth increase of all
honourable vertues, with long life, and
eternall happinesse.*



Delnesse is a sinne (saith the Text) yet better idle, then ill: employed. That's as it is taken, (so saide the good wife that kist her owne Cowe): all men hath their humors, each

Plant his propertie, the vildest weede dooth some good, and the vnskilful writer, may either delight or admonish. The ancient learned, tooke sometimes as great content to publish pleasant leasts, as to profit.

If the learnedst writers had their pleasure in conceited myrth, my hope is the more, of your Worshippes fauourable acceptance of this Pamphlet: albeit it may seeme rude to your iudgement, yet therein may you note the maners of sundry people, where the vertuous are honored, and the ignoble discouered. From the inferiousest flowers, the indu-

The Epistle Dedicatorie.

strious Bee gathereth hony : the Rose is not cast away for her cankor : the sweet Eglen-tine disdained for the rough stalke, nor good mens worth blemisht by vnskilfull lynes : from the vertuous good notes may be take, remembred and followed.

Faithfull subiects, and good men in the common wealth, were these famous Marchants of whō I intreat, wealthy, charitable, and honest. How pleasant conceited or merry you find them in their wel ordered Icasts, offending none, but desirous to do good to all, The censure of such, to your worship I humbly commend: with the zealous Presēt of his dutiful affection, that voweth himself in all power & abilitie, a deuoted seruant to you & all your worshipfull ancestors, from whose roote, your wor. being a liuely brāch, may by the asistāce of the omnipotēt deitie, many yeares in happines cōtinue among vs, the ioy of your renowned parents, your cōtries general comfort, a firme pillar, supporter, & maintainer of those honoured vertues & loue, by your auncestors gained, and long time maintained.

At your VVor. service so long as euer.

H. Robarts.



To the wel intending and courteous Reader.



Amongst many famous Marchants inhabiting the Westerne confines of this fertile Ile, there was dwelling neer, and in the renowned City of Exeter, Tormes, Plymouth, Barnestable, and Tyuerton, many of great substance, as wealthy for vertue, as rich in coyne and credit: such they were as for pelfe passed not, niggardnesse came not neere their Mansions: their gates to the stranger alwayes opened, and their liberall hands releued the poore. Two of which famous Marchants, viz. William & Oliuer, had residence in Exeter, Walter in Tormes, Otho in Plymouth, Iohn in Barnestable, and Robert in Tyuerton.

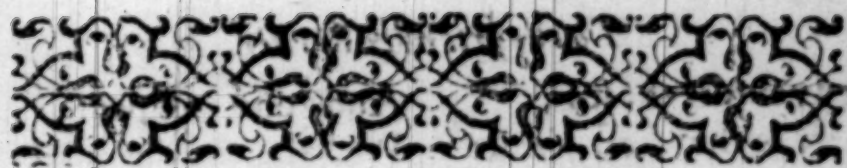
These men whom God blessed with wealth, had thankful minde to the giuer, acknowledging his goodnesse, whose stewards they were: Noblemen for their bountie, myrth, and fellowship, loued them: and Gentlemen of their Country, desired their familiar company: their neighbours well esteemed them, holding their friendship in great regard: and the poore duly prayed for them, whom they dayly comforted.

Loue and good opinions, generally they gained at home: ly-
king,

TO THE READER.

king, grace, fauour and countenance abroad: where euer they became friends flocked vnto them, no man enuied their happinesse: with forraine Princes and their subiects, who better esteemed, or more welcommed? with the best they braued it: their countries credit, more then coyne preferred: their Prince in all places honoured, and countenanced their Country-men: in any action where fame was sought, who more forward? wrong they offered no man, nor could they brooke iniuries: in good causes as readie to fight as to feast: with vsury they dealt not: aduantages of bonds they sought not: Couctousnesse they abhorred: their honest Trade they liued by, gaining wealth with conscience, and worship by desert: in myrth and good fellowship they delighted, for Gold they cared not: hauing this Prouerbe common among them, (A straw for a Peck of Ryalls) hospitalitie they maintained, and did good to all that sought vnto them. VVhat worthie commendations they deserued, their ensuing History shall shewe you: (perusing which) if you finde they were not as merry companions as the maddest Greekes you euer met, Ile burne my Cap, say Cut is a lade, the Shepheards Dogge a Curre, and a baked white Potte, no good meate.

Vale.



To the friendly Reader.

IN Stories olde,
It hath bene tolde,
That many a Franion,
And boone companion,
In this Land dwelled,
Which in vertue excelled:
Whose plesant profession
Wonne commendation,
Despising nigardie,
Fraughted with bountie:
Mongst many such men,
I frame my Pen,
Vno you to tell,
What of yore befell:
Sixe Marchants bolde,
More worth then golde,
Whose names inrolde,
Are highly extolde:
In *Deuon*, there dwelled,
As fame telled:
Gallants most braue,
Valiant wise and graue,
A few now a dayes,
That euery wayes,
With them might compare:
Men excellent rare,
Of sixe such men,
Of whom my Pen
Is now to vnfolde,
Their stories olde,

Greatly I feare,
This many a yere,
You shall not heare,
As to you shall appeare,
So honest so kinde,
So franke of minde,
From England to *India*
You shall not finde:
Farre they traueiled,
Much they dispended,
And trueth to saie,
Fauour did gaine,
Where ere they came,
They had the name:
For pelfe they carde not,
For crowns they spard not,
By sea they sayle,
For Englands weale,
And bring commodities
From many Countries:
The poore they fed,
The naked clothed:
A goodly rable,
Of men seruice-able,
This is no fab'e,
They feed at their Table,
When peace they inioy,
Their stockes to imploy,
To *France* and *Spaine*,
Flanders and *Brytaine*:

B They

To the friendly Reader.

They venture the seas,
Where so they best please:
Of these famous men,
And deeds done by them,
When you shall heare,
How farre and neare,
They doe maintaine,
A worthy traine,
Of gallant men :
You will say then,
That worthy they are,
To haue a share,
In the worldes glory,
And not to lye
In darke obliuion :
Thoe hence they be gone,
In place where they liued,
They neuer grieved,
Either rich or poore,
But sought euermore,
Peace to maintaine,
Not priuate gaine:
Pleasant they were,
And full debonayre,
Curteous to all,
Hating to brawle :
There Prince duly,
They serued truly:
Valliantly in field,
They made the foe yeeld:
And one the salt seas
Fought many stout frayes,
In hazerd of blood,
For their countries good :
Men of Courage,

And good equipage,
Well they be deemde,
And highly esteemde :
All men of skill,
Great matches they make;
And would vndertake,
With any that came,
For all kinde of game,
Shooting, and foote-ball,
Wrestling with all,
A hundreth pound a fall,
To any that call,
Come that come will,
They should haue their fil,
For any round summe,
As many as come,
For thousands they card not,
For cheer they sparde not :
Come Prince, come King,
They wanted nothing :
For all that come,
Be he Lord or Groom,
Mirth was their delight,
Their purposes of might,
Great charge to defray,
Either to feast or play,
The king they intertaine,
And his fauour gainde,
By great bountie,
There minde were so free,
Since other are named,
And for their deeds famed
Let these mery men,
With fames golden pen,
Be brought to vew,

Of

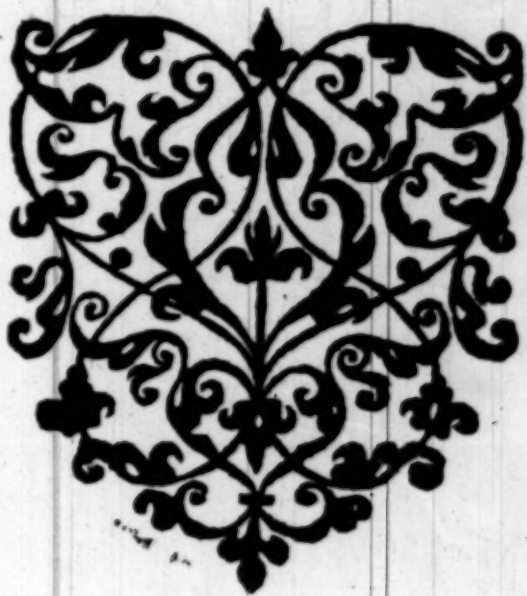
To the friendly Reader.

Of that worthy Crew,
Which take delight,
Such praises to write,
That in obliuion,
They rest not vnkowne.
For merry they were,
As to you shall appeare,
If you will read,
Each seuerall deede,
By them performed,
Their myrth and glee,
When you shall see,
Say *Demonsbirs* Laddes,
Are no clowns or swaddes.

Your delight ended,
Let them be so friended,
In their behalfe to say,
Would more such this day,
In this land there liued:
That so our foes greeued,
And our enemies quell,
So Gentilles farewell:
My Rime here I ende,
And to you commend,
Their storie at large,
As I tooke the charge:
Whose actions to vew,
Shall better please you.

FINIS.

B 2



A Table containing the contence of this Booke.

- H**ow these gallant Marchants of the West, began first their familiaritie, and what happened them. Chap. 1.
- How these newe acquainted friendes iournied to Roane in Normandy, and what happened them. Chap. 2.
- How Robert and John, were lodged in the Nunnery of Saint Bennets in Roane, and were by the Lady Abbesse, cured of their woundes. Chap. 3.
- How Oliver for his unreuence in time of Procession, was committed to prison, and all his companions. Chap. 4.
- How Oliver, Robert and Otho, departed to Burdeaux: and William and his two companions arrived in England. Chap. 5.
- How William after his returne to England, traded in the Citie of Exeter, where he wooed a wife. Chap. 6.
- How Iames, Williams prentise, abused his master to his loue; to hinder the marriage. Chap. 7.
- How the father and mother of Ioane, Williams loue, sent for him. Chap. 8.
- How Iames Williams was troubled in minde for his bad doings, and what appeared vnto him the cause of his greife. Chap. 9.
- How the sixe marchants in their iourney to Bristow met by chance, and what chanced. Chap. 10.
- How William in his iourney home from Bristow was robde, and how in mercie his companion payd all his losse. Chap. 11.
- How these famous Marchants for wrongs done them by the French nation, furnished twelve shippes to the sea, with their victories. Chap. 12.
- How Ioane, Williams wife, could not indure her seruant Iames, with his departue to Spaine. Chap. 13.
- How the king with his army marched to Exeter, and releued the Citie, besieged by the Cornish rebels. Chap. 14.
- How William and his other friendes, to make the king sport, made

THE TABLE.

*made challenge to all commers: at wrestling, kurling, and foot-
ball.* Chap. 15.

*How the Cardinall leaning the king at Exeter, iourned to
London, and what iests happened.* Chap. 16.

*How Iames, Williams servant, being his Factour in Spaine,
at one cast at dice, tost to the Dukes of Florence, and Medina,
fifte thousand Duckets.* Chap. 17.

*How Iames travelling from Calice to saint Lucas, encountred
a Lady, widowe to a Canileere of Spaine, in mans apparrel.* Chap. 18.

*How Iames lay with the Spaniard, and found her to be a wo-
man.* Chap. 19.

*How Iames accompanied the Lady to Cheryes, and what en-
ertainement she gaue him.* Chap. 20.

*How William by one of his neighbours, was made acquainted
with Iames his mans fortunes, with his answere to him.* Chap. 21.

*How William, Otho, and Oliuer, from Plymouth passed to
Spaine, and their fortunes.* Chap. 22.

*How the English Marchantes arrived at Cheres, at Iames
his marriage.* Chap. 23.

*How Iames with his wifes honourable friender, being at their
cheere, William and his companie visited them, with their wel-
comes.* Chap. 24.

*How Otho and Oliuer at the house of a Curtizan, was robde
of their moneyes and apparrell.* Chap. 25.

*How Iames at his master Williams departure, cleered all his
accounts with recompance, and his wifes kinde sauors.* Chap. 26.

FINIS.

B. 3





A pleasant discourse of six *gallant Marchants of Deuonshire.*

CHAP. I.

How these gallant Marchants of the West, beganne their
first familiaritie, and what happened them.



The famous Citie of Burdeux is scitua-
ted in Brittain, part of the French Con-
fines: in which Citie, yearely neare the
moneth of September, is held a Mart
of long continuance: to which Mart of
Wyntage, from all places Marchants
make their trafficke, for such wines as
the countries thereabouts doth plentiful-
ly yeld. Amongst many of sundry countries, which made their
voyage to this famous Port, three gallant youtnes Mar-
chants of great reputation, wealth, & credit, hauing to names,
William, Robart, and Otho, all from the well knowne and
honourable Citie of Exeter, had residence at Roane in Nor-
mandie: where their great affaires ended, hauing some idle
time, and waying not the expence of a hundred or two of
Crownes, in a merriment, gaue faithfull promise each to o-
ther, to passe for Burdeux, as well to see the manner of the
Wyntage, and order thereof, as witnesse to themselves, whe-
ther report of the great fleet which yearely there laded might
be true, as also to meete with some their countrey men of
Deuonshire, and with them to frolicke: for which journey, ac-
cording

A pleasant discourse of sixe gallant

cordding to time prescribed, being provided. To Burdeux they are come, where they frequent the gallantest company of all Nations thereof, demeaning themselves in such manner, that their company was acceptable and desired of all men: companions for all sports, or exercises, whether gaming, drinking, sporting, or revelling: what any durst do, they neuer refused it: such becom companions they are, and so of all men esteemed.

Not long after their coming to Burdeux, fortune bringeth with happinesse from the Westerne shore of England, a tall ship, well equipped and furnished, fit for the voyage: of whose arrivall, William and his accomplies being advertised, as men glad to heare of their countries welfare and friends, make such enquire for the ships company, that in good time they are met, with three other gallants Merchants, (viz.) Walter, Oliuer, and Iohn: with whom as strangers meeting, and questions propounded and answered, William knowing curtesie, in kindnesse entited the new arrived Merchants to his lodging that night to supper: which with thanks they accepted, and accordingly at the appointed houre came, where make no question, they were all as welcome, as friends in foreign parts may be to friends: spending the evening sometimes in discoursing of their Country and acquaintance there: sometimes in gaming, and often carousing healths to their Country, kindred, and friends.

Amongst this delight, albeit Oliuer, Iohn, and Walter, were as wel pleased in their company, as countrey men might be: yet were their mindes other where: especially Oliuer and Iohn, who yearly traffick for that parte, had there loves neare adioyning, one dwelling at Bloys, the other at S. Martines: such as for beautie, wealth and reputation, might draw men of more worth to their liking: of whom Oliuer and Iohn, in private whisperings, took great care, intending that night to have seene them, and deliuer such presents as they brought from England: had not this meeting of their countrey men prevented them.

To all which private talke, William and Robert took
god

Marchants of Deuonshire.

god heede. But William specially gaue eare, and overheard their speech: vnderstanding by many motions, that willingly they would haue bene free from their companies, which he, could well haue wished them, to their best liking: but that he intended to search them as he could, and make tryall what mettall his countreyemen were of: & so for that purpose, when he had well lined their hodes with the iuyce of Grape, a potion that maketh the colward bolde, and ouerthoweth the stoutest, William singlet from his companion, the best demeaned Oliuer, and with him, of many matters discoursed: betwene whom, such enchatinting words passed, that an inuolable league of friendship was profest, as nothing might haue power to violate: and consequently amongst them all.

William growing on this new-bowd friendship, to more familiar parly, besought Oliuer and the rest, hauing acquaintance in that place, to bring them to their semall friends in the Citie, where they might spend that night to see the fashions of those damselfs, for that they were straungers & had no acquaintance: for requitall of which, he promised them if they could finde opportunitie to come to Roane, where they had abiding, they would so quite their kindnesse as they should well like of.

Oliuer, as well disposed to mirth as his friend William, and as pleasantly conceited, imagined that his owne speech to his companion Iohn was ouer heard, whereon this question was propounded, toke in good part his words, and thankfully accepted all friendship offered, and cheare receiued. Beseeching pardon, not accomplishing his desire, whom he assured was of more continuance in the Citie, then himselfe, that had not bene full foure and twentie houres a shoare: and therefore rather ought to be a conductor to him and his companions, his experience being more then twentie such Idiots as himselfe in such causes. Therefore good brother (quoth Oliuer) rather let vs participate with your feminine pleasures, that being Ledgers are not vnprouided: and hereafter if you haue cause to vse vs, it may be we poxe men may proue as kinde to you vpon like occasion.

¶

William

A pleasant discourse of sixe gallant

William thus pretily scurped by his friend Oliver, returning the point of his own weapon into his bosome, thought it ill halting before a Cripple, and hereby iudged his countrymen no Crownes, nor their answers to heke, which on the sudden could give them such bones to gnaw. With refore leauing to reply, least words in least spoken, might break their familiaritie by acceptations taking, they here with a fresh carouse, end their nights sportes, leauing euery man to his rest: taking this order with them by generall consent, that euery of them should not faile at times ordinarie for repast, to haue their dyets at one house, to be chosen by whole consent, where whosoever shuld be absent, not having such businesse as the company might tollerate, must forset a summe by them to be agreed on. To this when they had all said Amen, and hands given for continuing their begun friendship, they betooke themselves to their rests.

CHAP. II.

How these new acquainted friends iournied to Roane in Normandie, and what hapned to them.



These gallant youths (as you haue heard) vsing such continuall company, they liking increased, and their familiaritie was admired, which was generally noted of all strangers in the Cittie of Burdeaux, where they had commendations, not onely for their mirth, good fellowship, & company keeping, but in regard of their businesse, (then whom) none more forward, vsing all times to fit purpose, if leisure permitted: who more frolike? or what were they in the whole company of any Nation, that durst vnder take these sixe gallants at any sporte, exercise, or gaming whatsoener, whether in pleasure or for coyne? whose purses were not tyed with miserie, nor did they account of Crownes before their countries honour,

Oliver,

Marchants of Deuonshire.

Oliver, Iohn and Walters being well acquainted in Put-deux, well beloued and graced amongst the better sort of Marchants, with whom they did vsually trafficke, had offer of most the best Wines that came thither, wherby they made the sooner dispatch, laded their ship, and made readie wines for her second returne: which done, and they at leisure to take their pleasure, William, Robert, and Orho, were called away to Roane for supply of businesse, desirous of their good friends companies, with many suites importuning them for the same, whom after many denials they graunt, providing them horses and other necessaries for their iourney: which done, and solemne farewell taken of their friends that staid behind, forward they set, as pleasant and merrily disposed as might bee, each one glad of others company; framing occasions of solace, the better to beguile their time of travell, continuing their iollitie all that night in their lodging, fearing no man, nor dreading any ill to betide them.

But as the fairest dayes by cloudes are some ouer cast, the greatest ioyes eclipsed with plaints, and all men subiect to crosses, so fell it out with these faithfull friends, who taking their way by iourney as it laie, through the Forrest of Ardine, were beset with a company of Outlawes, Thieves which laie in ambush to entercept them: who coming neare the thicket where the treacherous villaines laie, suddenly issued, and furiously assailed them: first with their Pistolles, which daungerously they discharged against them, renewing the fight with their Rapiers: in which first assault, Robert & Iohn with their Pistolles were dangerously hurt, William, Orho, Oliver and Walter, maintained the fight with great courage, so applying themselves, that in short time they made free passage, in despite of those villaines which made sure account to haue had their spoile, of whom two were in fight slain, and diuers hurt, who trusted better to their hokes then slaying, to save theyr liues.

William and his company seeing so good a riddance of these companions, & none scene neere them, not assured what rescue

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might come, made no stay, but binding by the wounds of Robert and John as they could, hasteneth on their way, making all speede to a Towne not farre from them, where, by a fryer skilfull in Chirurgery, they were dressed: this night reposing themselves, comforting their friends, and the next day taking with them such Implaisters, Balmes, and other provision needfull to their wounds, to serue till they came to Roane, they set forward, which within three dayes to their great content, they recovered.

CHAP. III.

How Robert and John were lodged in the Nunnery of Saint Bennets in Roane, where by the Lady Abbas they were cured.



As soone as these good friendes recovered Roane, and had boused their wounded companions, to ease them whilest other provision was made: William and Orho being best acquainted, knowing the Ladie Abbas of S. Bennets to be a very charitable & skilfull woman in Surgery, made meanes vnto her, for fauour to be showane to their wounded friends, louing the Countrey (as many kisse the childe for the Pourses sake) after small entreatie, was content to accept them into the Monastery, whom she the more tendered, because they receiued their woundes by trechery of her Country men: but when she sawe their persons, she wonderfully affected them: for whom beyond ordinary, she caused provision to be made, both for dyet & lodging, such their friends that visit them, her selfe dressing their woundes, and so applying them, that the danger of their griefes were soone past: which very much pleased the Lady, hauing a zeale to do them good, for that she held it meritorious.

CHAP.

Marchants of Deuonshire.

CHAP. IIII.

How *Oliver*, for his vnrreuerent demeanour at the Procession, was committed to prison, with his companions.



Whilest the two wounded men, Robert and Iohn, were recovering their health, their other companions kept in the Citie of Roane, youthfully employing themselves, imboldned by the countenance of William, whose acquaintance were many, and friendes great: by which meanes sundry lewde pranks were not scene, which deserued imprisonment and punishment, (by their law) so long continuing their boldnesse without regarde, that a woyle hap then chanced: Oliver, being a very pleasant conceited fellow, (in his humour) chanced to be amongst a multitude, standing in the chiefe streets of the Citie, to beholde the solemne Procession passing by, where on a sudden, to the great admiration and trouble of the company, stepping to the ffray that carried the rich Crosse, violently tooke it from him, and dashed it so furiously against the ground, that it brake all to peeces: which by the multitude was taken in such ill part, that by commandement of the Clergie, he, and as many Englishmen as were then in his companie, were taken, and to straight prison committed, where they were cruelly vsed, for whom no sute might pzenaile.

This mad pranke was generally spoken off, throughout the Citie of Roane, and by ill hap, came to the hearing of Iohn and Robert, who were now, by the helpe of God and the Ladies good indursty well recouered: but by their friendes trouble brought to such melancholy, betwayling their ill hap (which was perillous) that nothing might moue them to myrth, or cause their content. Albeit yet the good Abbas and other their friends did what possible they could: that by their woe, many

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griefes ariseth, the Abbas sorroweth, and the whole company complaineth for their comfort, whom none but their friends libertie can comfort, especially such of the Virgins that exchanged there French puritie for English loue, esteeming more of the imprisoned English then the whole countrey. Amongst those that loue had tyed in liking, the Lady Abbas was not least in affection, who dayly dressing the woundes of Robert with her owne handes, begonne so well to bee pleased in his company, that shee forgot her Paternosters, her stomacke so wambled with this little god of loue, that hauing small time to cloath her, was often compelled to make her offerings a bed.

Robert, againe of an humble and thankesfull spirit, hauing strength and ability to performe the office of a man, hath so well pleased the Lady, that shee rather desired priuate conference with Robert, (her new deuoted seruant) then to heare the sweetest Channon chaunte in the Quire, descant hee neuer so well, yet the Ladies deuotion is colde to the Church, but burning to the Chamber.

This loue of the Lady Abbas to Robert, must be the meane now to relieue their friends, and procure their libertie, whereof Robert promiseth himselfe assurance: to effect which, knowing the Ladie doated in his liking, and desired his health and contentment, he continueth his melancholly in such extreme maner, demeaning himself in those passions, that his grief caused all the Puns sorrowe, who neuer durst leaue him, fearing his distemper might cause him vse violent handes on himself, but with many good words perswaded him to comfort, whose eares were shut to the doctrine they preached.

So long continued this franticke humour on Robert, that the good Lady gaue to finde want of her delight, and missed Roberts recourse to her lodging, which bred in her a great discontent, and more troubled in her want, then Robert was for his distressed friends. Wherefore to reclaime him from these sullen humours, shee studied and deuised all possible meanes she could to doe them good, for which hauing conceited a Plot,
she

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She sendeth her secret keeper with her ring, intreating Robert of the loue he professed her, instantly to visit her in her closet: which kinde message Robert refuseth, railing and exclaiming against her, and her people, cursing and banning, the Countie, the citie, & Communitie, that injured his friends: continuing this fit so long, that the good Lady moued with remorse, in her night-gowne came to visite him: vnto whom hauing giuen much holesome counsell, (which he hearkeneth vnto) gently wringing him by the tender hands, she entreateth him to walk with her to her gallerie, where by solemne oath she protesteth if he would forsake it as he was wont, and no more be crossed with these passions, to ouerthrowe his owne estate and graue those whose ioy he is, by that meanes she had deuised, his friends ere two dayes be expired should haue their libertie, and he enjoy his owne contentment.

Robert well pleased with these wordes, was in his minde more quieted, yet made no semblance thereof, but accused her of flattery and dissimulation, seeming in speech so vehement, as if he would haue murdered all that came neare him: which the pitifull Lady with teares bewayled, bowing by her holy Order, and by all rights of her honour, to perforce her promise, or it should cost all the wealth she had, and hazarde of her best friends, on which giuing him her hand, she leadeth him like a good Purse, carefull least harme should betyde her Infant: conducting him to that place where so often she desired his company, where he still continued, vying her to performe her promise.

Early in the morning, as carefull of her charge by bowe made, she sendeth for the Prior of the Iacobins, an auncient Benefactor to her house, whose shame she had many times couered, and remitted his sinne offending with her Holy maydes. With this Iacobine, she so by large promises and lamentable speech preuaileth, that in hope of performance, and free access to the house at his pleasure, with libertie of his olde loue, the match is concluded, the Iacobine hath giuen his faith, swearing by his Cowle and Crooked staffe, he

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will not leaue them vntill they were free, which by his friends
hee so laboured to those in authoritie, that by generall consent
of the whole Clergie, the Englishmen enioyed liberty, and the
Iacobine his pleasure.

CH A P. V.

How *Oliuer, Robert and Otho*, departed towardes *Burduex*,
William and his two companions, arriued in *England*.



Robert by his great pollicie hauing purchased his countreymens libertie, and being both perfectly cured of their wounds, time drawing on, appointed for meeting their ship comming from England, after they had a while feasted with the Marchantes of the Citie, (desiring their company) and frolickt with his friends, which done, Robert and Iohn, willing to shew their thankfulness to the Lady Abbas, which would receiue no money, they procured two of the best Jewels and rarest they could finde, which in all humblenesse they presented her, which she thankfully accepted: with a heavy heart giving a loth farewell to her beloued Robert, with whom when shee had in secret conuersed, shee commended them to their prosperous iourney, whom she promiseth in her prayers to remember: giving vnto Robert, a paire of Beades, so rich and beautifull as he neuer saw the like: a Crucifixe and chayne valued at a thousand crowns, with rewardes to Iohn: which don, she gaue commandement for her coach, and twelue of her honest Tenants well mounted, to accompanie them to Burduex.

Robert receiuing these great fauours, in requitall, tendered his loyall seruice, with many humble duties by vow to be performed: which was moze valued at her Ladiships handes, then all the wealth he could offer: such was the Ladies affection vnto him, whose absence, howsoever she for fashion sake coloured,

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coloured, it causeth her heartes extreme sorrow. But howsoeuer, the time is now come to leaue them, his company brauely mounted, attend to bring him on his way, which made knowne, the Abbas bids farewell with many kinde fauours, and a million of Paternosters, Aue-maries, and Credes, long fastings, often watchings, and a worlde of religious ceremonies for his good successe: what the other pittie pure soules doe for their loues, good Gentle-men imagine, for it is like they would be as well bled as their mistresse.

Onwardes now we are our Gallants towarde Burdeaux, where by the way, Robert acquainted his friende William and the rest of his company with his fortunes, continuing these pleasant discourses till they came to their lodging, where that night, they had mery chatting and carousing to their friendes, the Lady Abbas, and the sisters healths: the next morning they took their leaue one of another: Oliuer and his two friendes for Burdeaux, and William and his companions, to Roane.

William had not long continued at Roane, but a ship arrived from Exeter, by the marchants whereof, he receiued the wofull newes of his masters death, with commandement from his mistresse and the executors, to gather in his debtes, make sale of such goods as hee had, perfect his accounts, and with the first ship, to come for England. All which, when hee had ouerpast his sudden sorrowe for the losse of so good a friend, like a carefull man, to please the liuing as hee had his disceased maister, with such effect followed his busines, that by the ships returne, hee was ready with the first to goe aboard: For which voyage, hauing shipped his provision and such goods as hee had, hee inuited sundry his good friendes to banquet: which ended, with kinde imbrazings, hee biddeth farewell to them that wish his prosperitie at sea.

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CHAP. VI.

How *William* after his returne to England, traded for himselfe in the Ciuie of *Exeter*, and wooed a wife.



God fortune & fauourable windes, hath safely landed *William* & other his friends, who being carefull, could not be quiet nor merry with any company, until he had deliuered his accounts, which to the good liking of the widow and the Executors he performed, hauing their quittance general: which done, aduised by his friends, he seated him in a good place, trading for himselfe, with good successe, in which he so profited, that wealth increased abundantly: gaining by his good behaviour, charitie, and good conscience, the generall good opinion of the whole Citie: vnto whō many men tendered their daughters with great dolozies: but that life liked he not. When he had with great care and labour spent some two or thre yeares, substance encreasing, and customers flocking, he took to Apprentice an honest Farmers sonne named *Iames*: shortly after this, as time ouercometh all things, and experience maketh men wise, especially where man with man perswade.

William after many kind aduertisements of friends, continually putting him in minde of the comfort of marriage, and pleasures therein, the ioyes fathers haue of their children, and honours thereby obtained, was wenne at length to consider thereof: and resolving to marry, offer was made him of a proper *Mayden*, the onely childe of a very honest and wealthy man, not farre from the Citie: with whose Parents the friends of *William* hauing conference, hearing a very good report of the man, her Father agreed, promising a good portion with his daughter if they could like. Whereupon *William* was by his friends invited to her Fathers house the Sunday following
to

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to dinner: against which time, Ione (so the Maydens name was called) in the best maner apparelled her selfe, knowing to what end this iolly wooer came, where he was welcome to her father, but better to the childe that longed to be a wife: Dinner ended, where wanted no good cheare, every man betaketh himselfe to passe the time as best contenteth him. William not forgetting his errant was for a wife if he could get her, desired the maiden to be his conductor to the Garden, where after they had walked two or three turnes, viewing the beltie thereof, and commending the pleasure of the same: William being a bashfull young man, after many frivolous questions, fearing to be counted a colward having such aduantage, solicites her for Ione, with such pretie questions, and her wittie answeres, that William, after the first assault became valiant, whetting his wittes to answer her parley, wherein he so prevailed, that the skirrish waring faint, his hope was the greater to scale the fforte without more danger. And like a conquerer might vaunt with honoz, the Towne & his, though with some faint denials, for modestie she said nay: yet upon conditions, her father said Amen. Ione wittes Content.

This short worke contented William well, who was now pleased in thought of marriage, having such hope in his sute, hating to be long a wooing, and rather chusing to live ever without a wife, then tied long to lingring suites: yet to please Ione whose toy he now is, how well soever his choise and her answeres pleased, kept it to himselfe, comforting her father, and his friends, that all should be well he doubted not: but as they wished, after this first meeting and love of either given secret to other, William every day with letters solicited his Ione: between whom many pretie tokens was enterchanged, and of both parties accepted, all furthering love and good liking: and was pleasing to father, mother, and his friends, before whom, shortly after they were made sure.

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CHAP. VII.

How *James, Williams* seruant, abused his maister to *Ioane*,
hindering their loue.



William assured by promise to his Ioane, and the Banes publikely asked, many his familiar friendes, some in iest, others in good sooth, bad God giue him ioy: his seruant James, enquiring of his maisters forwardnesse of many, was somewhat discontented and grieved: considering the vncontrolled life hee then liued, and the care hee should haue to please a Distresse, had many knauish deuises hammering in his head to breake the match, and to keep his Maister a Batcheler still. Amongst many other his practises, one onely hee intended to effect, if oppertunitie would giue him leaue: which not many dayes after sorted to his distress, and thus unhappily he practised it.

Diuers Marchantes of Exeter, Williams very good friendes, being ready to put to sea, invited (as their custome is) their familiar acquaintance to their parting banquet, amongst which guests, William was solemnly bidden, James knowing his Maister safe for stirring, provided a horse, and in al the hast poasted to Ioane, intending to try his wittes: whither hee came in the evening neare bedde time, who seeing the old man and his wife sitting at the doore, earnestly desired to speake with Ione: vnto whom he deliuered a very solennine message in name of his Maister, desiring her of all the loue she doeth professe, speedily to come vnto him, if she tooke pleasure in his life that was dangerously sicke on the suddaine: so strangely taken, as no life was expected.

This

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This suddaine newes appalled the whole household, Ioane cried, the father lamented, and the mother with wringing hands bewailed this unhappie fortune of William: to satisfie whose minde, preparation was made for Ioanes iourney, James hearing what was broached amongst them, laughed to himselfe, and verie earnestly hastened the olde man to sende away his Ioane, vnto whom he made tender of his seruice, to be her conuoy for so small a iourney, if it pleased them: whereof her father was glad: loth so late to be troubled himselfe, or his seruants, to James deliuered her, commending them to good speed. James possessed of his adopted mistresse, hauing her from her fathers house, bethought him of his intended knauey: hauing then the best oportunitie, with a deep sigh, & voice mournfull, as a graue man moued to pitié, began to commend her beuty, personage, good gifts, honest parentage, and wealth likely, with other her exceeding vertues, worthe for the best man in the Citie, to be utterly cast away by marriage with his Maister William.

Ioane hearing these protestations, albeit her mind was cumbrd with James his tydings, yet gaue good eare to his speech: whereof taking the aduantage, cut him off, and with kinde words besought him to explaine his meaning, that marrying his maister she were cast away.

Which James by no means, either for promise of fauour, gifts or entreatie would graunt against his maister, whose welfare he esteemed as his life, although it mightily concerned her good.

These latter speeches, put her into further dumps, causing moze desire to be resolved. But James in no wise would grant, vntill by great oathes he swore her to conseale from all people, either the cause, or reucaler of the same. To all which covenants Ioane swore to be iust, and faithfully to keepe, which done he said: Swete Mistresse Ioane, though my yeares deny me that experience which many good men proue, yet am I not so sencelesse, but can conceiue the pleasures parents haue in vertuous children, the ioyes in wedlocke, and the swete content therein: where husband and wife participate in one sympathie of loue, and so much the moze graue, to see such a one as your

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selfe, marked of God to be the mother of many sweet Infants, wherein your fathers aged yeares should be blessed, and the world by procreation encreased, should be deprived of all rights due in marriage to the poorest begger: robbed of mothers honorable name, and pleasure therein, all proceeding from the imperfections of nature, in him whose wife by full graunt you are.

Ioane hearing these reports from Williams owne seruant, who thought she sorrowed to the death, for his supposed sickness, wished his head off, so she were rid of him: entring into consideration of Iames particular speech, the losse of wombes pleasures, and mothers delight, so nearely touched her, that as in a trance she had like to haue fallen from her horse, if Iames had not the more regarded her. Whose extremitie when he saw, stricken with fear of his mistresse Ioanes wel doing, he wished that undone which was begunne: yet taking heart of grace, knowing care must be comforted, cheered her with the best speech he could: so long perswading, that she reuiued againe: calling to minde, the great losse of that she most hoped for: the thought of William was loathsome vnto her, wishing neuer to heare or see him more: earnestly desiring Iames, as he tendered her life, to returne to her fathers house: for if she proceeded, there is no hope but to expect death. Iames more willing to entreat her, then Ioane to craue, (for fashions sake) besought her to go forward to his maister. But nothing might preuaile, home she would, no deniall could serue: whither Iames made such haste, that they came before the old man was in bedde.

The sudden comming of Ioane with her guide Iames, much amazed them: especially seeing their dearest childe in such a pittifull case: and not knowing the cause, thought verily that some hobgoblins or thernes had frighted them: which to assure them, finding Ioane in weake case, and not to be questioned, the mother and her maides were very carefull in hauiuing her to bed: meane while the father earnestly enquired of Iames, what the occasion of his daughters grieffe was: who
like

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like himselfe, so suttely pleaded, that the olde man was not a whit the wiser: Iames hauing broached this deuise, how wel or ill so euer it speedeth in the end. After he had in secret coniuured Ioane by her holy oathes to remember her promise, with all speed hasteneth to Exeter, where he discharged his horse, and recovered his maisters house, long befoze the company brake vp: William little suspecting what his man had bene about.

CHAP. VIII.

How the Father and Mother of *Ioane*, seeing their daughters sicknesse increase, sent for *William*.



Ioane languishing in this conceited feare of her Williams want, ga grow so weak, that her friends had smal hope of her recovery, being in best comfort when she might be alone: where with sighes and greuous complaints of her fathers rashnesse, she exclaimeth on her hard fortune, being so unhappily marked aboue all the women she hath knowne: bitterly inueryng against William, that knowing his imperfections, durst seduce any woman to his deceitfull loue: despyng wealth, honour, and not caring to be married to the greatest Monarke, hauing those necessary wants.

Her good father, whose comfort was his Ioanes health, when he could not learne by all possible meanes the occasion, and sicknesse rather encreasing then ceasing, aduised by his kindred, sent for her Loue William, hoping his presence might comfort her: who like a kind man, leauing al to his man Iames, presently procured from the Apothecaries such comfortable drugges as he could get for money, with sugars and spices of his owne store, hastning to his loue Ioane, where to her father and mother he was a welcome man. But Ioane took little pleasure

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pleasure in his sight or company, his presence being so irke-
some, and Iames his tale troublesome, William offering her
kindnesse, comming to her bed side to speake with her, she vio-
lently thrust him from her, turning her to the other side, not ca-
ring for his courtesie or him, but earnestly entreated them to
take him from her. This strangenesse which she shewed Wil-
liam, whom they thought would haue bene a comfort, more
troubled them, then any other accident, especially William,
whom it most concerned: who entred into all iudgements see-
ming reason, sauing the principall, which they neuer suspected.
William censuring al things to the best of her whom he dear-
ly loued, was therefore the more in spirit cumbered: yet pacify-
ing himselfe as he best might, walked abroad, spending time
vntill the euening, when he thought sleepe might better quiet
her, and giue some better temper to her wittes: which happe-
ned not so well, for no sooner came he in her sight, but presently
she followed her olde humour, to Williams great griefe, seeing
other men well entreated and welcome to her, he onely despi-
ced: in this chollericke humour he would haue left the house, and
like to haue sworn by great oaths neuer to come thither more,
had not the company which wished them both well pacified
him: at whose request and great entreatie, he stayed, though in
small content all night, to see if any alteration would be.

CHAP. IX.

How *Iames* was troubled in mind for that which happened,
and what meanes was vsed to know the cause of *Ioanes*
sicknesse.

IAmes haneing ended his businesse, being at some leisure, be-
gan to consider what wronges he had offered his Maister
and his friend, and what might follow this diuellish prac-
tise, in this quandary, when he had wayted some time extraor-
dinary for his Maister that came not, he gat to bed, where the
guiltinesse of his soule offence so cumbered him, that he took
small

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small rest. The morning no sooner gaue light, but Iames wearied with his nightes disquiet, got vp about his businesse, and not long after came William home, as heauie and full of passions as a man might be losing his delight, her ffather and mother with weeping neare wearied, and the whole houtholde mourned fo; their disquiet. The old woman who had a motherly care of the Hayden, searching all wayes and meanes fo; her daughters health, principally noted the small content she toke in Williams company, who hearing that he was gone, began moze cheerfully to talke, calling fo; such things as she liked: this amendment caused her Mother to imagine, some discontent it was that troubled her, which would be her destruction if some meane were not found, to know the cause from whence it proceeded. To effect which, polittikely she insinuates with an auncient Hayden seruant of theirs, that had bene her daughters bed-fellow euer since she was weaned, whome Ioane loued wel: to her the Mother maketh great mone, promising money plentifull, and what other friendship they could do fo; her, if she could by any deuise attain the knowledge of her grieffe, fo; that they were assured was the chiefest cause. The mayden wrought by her old Distresse, promised faithfully to do her best to satisfie them, not forgetting her Maister & Distresse good words, and rich proffers of money, as one that could well handle the matter, watching in y night with Ioane, vttered many faire words, bemoaning her extremitie, and pittying her distresse, saying she was perswaded that some secret sorow cumbred her, willing whatsoeuer was in her minde, to reueale it to some one whom she best trusted therewith: which would be the moze comfort fo; her in sickness: so might she the better ease her heart of sorow, and haue meanes to releue her: otherwise there was no hope of life. Ioane hearkening to her approued friendes good counsell, after she had sworn her to concale what she had to impart vnto her, and the seruant promising faithfully to fulfill whatsoeuer she was enioyned, with many sighes which like smoke came from her stomack, out it came, which soe burned her hart and consumed her bodie: vttering wherof, she enueyed

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against her Father, Mother, William, and all friends there to consenting. The seruant hearing her, beleued verily shee had found where the hurt lay, and smothered her more to feeke the bottome of her heart, which Ioane faithfully discharged at full, leaving nothing hid from her. With which newes, the Mayden laboured as a woman with childe to be deliuered, wayting opportunitie, to her Maister and Mistresse she came, and vnto them deliuered what Ioane vnder Benedicite had reuealed: assuring her Maister that was the cause. Her mother at hearing thereof, grew into admiration how Ioane should come to knowledge of so great a secret, yet was glad at the heart, she had that giuen her to vnderstand.

The better to eschew ill to such channes incident, with more tender compassion, bemoaning her, that being a woman as shee was, should so be deluded, losing the benefit of youth, the rytes to marriage in dutie appertaining.

The olde woman finding by Ioanes trustie friend where her grieve laie, on the morrow came vnto her, inciting her, by the dutie of a childe, to let her know if any thing troubled her minde, and freely speaking without blame, she should be comforted, if all the abilitie she had would procure it.

Ioane hearing her mothers speeches, though modestie willed her conseale it, trusting her mother would be secret to her in like manner, reuealed the substance of Iames his tale & cause of her grieve: which the old woman was glad of, willing her to take comfort and be of good cheare, so she should not haue that wrong by her consent: blaming her most, so long consealing the occasion, so highly to graue her selfe: which sooner made knowne, order had bene taken before that time, so a husband sufficient. Ioane well pleased with her mothers saying, assured of her loue, began to comfort her selfe in hope, and by little and little recovered some strength.

Her mother whose secrets she could not keepe, to a Collop a neighbour of hers, reuealed the cause of her chldes malladie, and the imbecilitie of William. So long this newes was carried, that it came by a House dwelling in that parish, to Exeter,

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rer, who told her Mistresse, which was wife to a wealthy Marchant, what common talke was throught their parish of William. The Marchants wife, whose husband loued William well, could not be quiet, but as soone as her husband came in, acquainted him with that report. The good man smiling at his wifes simplicitie, that was no better imployed then to spend her time hearing so bad a tale. Wife (quoth he) I hope your modestie is moze, then to be a carrier of such tydings: to answer you, as I would do all others that speake it, I will on my oath iustifie, that he is a man sufficient for any reasonable woman: what I speake is truth, I know it well: hauing bene his bedfellow almost thre yeares, learning our language in Spaine.

The Marchant acquainted William herewith, who in choller, accompanied with some friendes, hyed to the Farmers house, requesting to see Ioane, who would not be spoken with: wherfore taking her Father aside in priuate, he discoursed how he was abused: and vehemently protested he wold not be made a scoyne by his daughter if she were a Lady: therfore willed to let him know the originall of this scandall, or by heauen he protested, the next Sunday at diuine seruice, in their parish Church, to quit himselfe of so great an ignomy, he would naked shewe himselfe, to her and their great shame, that deuised the same. The old man seeing William so angry, by mild speech brought him to moze reason, and at his intreatie discovered vnto him, what modestie forbade: on which assurance, her Father with his daughter and mother so preuailed, that taking his word for currant, and Williams for good payment, she apparelled her selfe, and came amongst them: where all broyles were ended, and promises faithfully giuen, neuer moze to be remembered: and shortly after to both their contents were wedded. Ioane finding her man lames to be a strife-maker, though she neuer for her oath discovered his doings, secretly cruied him euer after.

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CHAP. X.

How the fixe Marchants, *William Oliver, Otho, John, Walter* and *Robert*, in their iourney to *Bristow* met, and what happened them.



William having espoused his Ioane, placed her in Exeter, he following his businesse: which pleased Ioane and her Parentes well, who hath now found his manhood, and repproued the scandales. Not long after the mariage, was the Faire for Saint Iames at Bristow, to which, from all places of the West, commeth Marchants, Drapers, and Chapmen, to buy and sell: amongst which resort, these fixe Marchants, William, Otho, John, Walter, Oliver, and Robert, being from their owne homes on their iourney at Tanton, by great fortune happily met, glad of one the others company: having taken their Inne earely, they bespake their dyets to sup together, spending the time at bolwels & other sports, till it was readie, as frolicke and merry as cuer they had bene, none of them sparing, having all wealth sufficient: the next day to Bristow they came, where they lodged orderly together, so; no friends or acquaintance might part them. Night approaching, and their businesse for that time ended, William was by a Beerce of London, inuited to & horshead a Tavern, to supper, which he refused, saying: If I come, I must bring my good friends and companions with me, for we go together. Content quoth the Beerce, you shall all be welcome. Whom William sought, and toke them with him to the place appointed, where his friend the Beerce and other Londoners met them. To supper they go, where wanted no cheare, wine nor daintie Puslick, to whose company the Westerne Merchants were very welcome: supper ended, some betooke them to dice, others to dance, as best liked them, William, Oliver, and Robert.

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Here standing yde, seeing money so plentiful and gamesters so franke, fell in amongst the company, where the dice running crosse, Robert and Oliver, was quite of all their coyne, William holding his owne in reasonable manner.

The Londoners which were winners frumped them, and were pleasant, amongst which, one challenged William, to throw one cast for all his money before him, which was a good summe: which offer, Oliver and Robert would haue taken, offering to pawne their wares in the hall to make it good, scozning to be braued by their betters. But William was the man they shot at, whom they intended, to giue as drie a shauing as his companions. William perceiuing whereat they aymed, was more moued with his companions that sought to hinder him then the others: and in choller thrust his money from him, challenging the proudest to couer it: who gaping for the money, making a sure reckoning it was their owne, was struing who should be the man: which William seeing, laughed heartily, saying: by the holy Trinitie, I neuer saw carrion crows more greedy, then these good fellows of my money: which twin (quoth William) and in Gods name take it: when that is lost, if lost it wil be, I haue yet in money and credit with my neighbours, a thousand crownes more which you shall haue amongst you.

The gamesters seeing his courage, left contending, couered the golde, for which William had a chance and won it: whereat his companions shouted. This losse set our gallants in a heat, which William perceiuing, thus coled: Gentlemen, we are poore men of the West, and you of the famous Citie: yet all subiects to our Soueraigne, friends I trust we are, if not, say so. Care that wil: he are you friends, square not without cause, our money you wonne, and with good will had it, then be as well content to lose: if you be not well, loe there it lies, pawne it, and a gods name win it and weare it: if we lose this, we shall not beg to our homes.

The Londoners seeing his gallant mind, commended him for his bounty, loath to be braued, put their heads to one, and

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 had a chance for it. William minding to try what was in them,
 offered a thousand Crownes, praising his chance, either win
 the horse (quoth he) or lose the saddle, fortune cannot begger
 vs with one throw at dice, away the Boate, and a straw for a
 pecke of Ryalls. William shewing so pleasant a minde, and
 franke to the standers by, was wished well of all the whole co-
 pany: but his iollitie quelled his gamesters, that they durst not
 praise their chances. The worse for William, whose fortune
 was to win their monies, and had all on the board in his posses-
 sion, which with frowning countenances, his fellow game-
 sters maligned: which William perceiuing, thus cheared.
 Gentlemen, you haue made vs poore men good cheare, be-
 stowing on vs, Fidlers fare, meate, drinke, and money: for
 your spozte we thanke you: and that you may know we tra-
 uellers of the West be good fellows, wishing no mans harme
 that would vs well, the shot I will pay: friends we met, and
 so wish to continue. Oliuer take here your principal you dzew,
 and Robert yours: this hundred pounds shall buy my Ioane
 pinnes: for the rest Gentlemen, if you scozne not a good fellows
 proffer, share it amongst you that be losers.

The Londoners which were farre spent in this brauerie,
 gaue him thanks: others better able to beare their losse, in
 scozne refused his proffer, yet with a litle intreatie, wonne to
 take it: but generally, the whole company admired and prai-
 sed William: who bestowed on them a costly banquet, rewar-
 ded the Musitians, largely paid the house and attendants.
 For that time parting company, with thanks to William for
 his cheare and large gifts.

CHAP. XI.

How William in his iourney homewards was robbed, and
 how for a couple of Connyes he made in meriment his
 company pay his losses.

VWilliam and his companions ending their businesse,
 toke their iourney by Bathe, where pleasantly they
 spent

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Spent a day or two, feasting and making merrie with their friends. From thence to Welles, and so to Bridgewater, ouer the downe called Poldonne, a place often frequented with such as lighten honest trauellers of their monies. These good companions passing the downe, the way faire and greene, and they pleasantly discoursing, William of a necessarie businesse was enforced to stay behinde: wherein being earnestly imploied, came to him three tall fellows wel appointed, with short swords and bucklers, commanding him to deliuer his money. William being thus surprized on the sudden, nothing daunted with their words, presently said. It is done like cowards and not men, to take me at such aduantage. Now I see the old prouerbe verified, It is easie kissing a mans tayle when his hole are downe.

If you be men, as you haue the forme of men, shew me faire play and do your worst. The theues hearing him so pleasant, though their hast to be gone was great, dreading his company should rescue him, would trie what was in him, setting so good a face on it, willed him to chuse his first man, and best do, best haue. William hearing such good words from so bad mindes, took his Capcase from his Saddle bow, setting himselfe to such weapons as he had. Good fellowes (quoth he) for Gentlemen I scoone to name you: that you may say hereafter, you met with a true man and a good fellow, there lieth my money, twentie pounds I take it: on this condition, that if I hurt or foyle this good fellow, the money to be mine without more ado: further chalenge of any of you: if I receiue the like, the money is yours, & much good may it do you: with this consent of both parties, to it they went. William being a very tall man, held him play vntill his sword brake, when closing with him, William shewing a Deuonshire tricke, laid him flat on his backe, and might haue slaine him, had not his fellowes bin so neare. With this the fray ended, and William craved leave to passe with his money according to promise: which they deliuered. William hauing it at his Saddle bow readie to take horse, two of them holding him fast by the armes, said.

(Gentleman)

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(Gentleman) I doubt not but you wil confesse to your friends, we haue vsed you as our honest promise was, you haue your money and we all good friends: which considered, though our wants be great, yet euery honest man is their words master: we will not steale, for that is forbidden: marrie we haue here two good Rabbets, which you shall buy. William hearing the these talke so much of honestie, blessing himselfe, saith: when the fore preacheth, beware the Cese. My maisters (quoth he) I haue farre home, and my diet provided in euery Anne if I haue money, I haue no vse for your Rabbets, therefore seek some other chapman. By our Lady (quoth the these) but you shall. Nay if you sweare (said William) I am content so your price be reasonable. What must I pay? all the money in your Capcasse (quoth they) therefore dispatch, for we haue businesse Dispatch (quoth William) no hast but good: I must haue some more time to view my commoditie before I pay my money. With that they lay all hands vpon him to binde him, vnto which he was loath to subiect himselfe: wherefore willed them to take his money and let him go: to which, though they they were loath to agree, yet vpon his oath that he should not pursue them, they shaked the money into their hat and bad him farewell.

William having his Rabbets, the dearest commoditie hee euer bought, hastneth after his company, who missing him, at the foote of a hill stayed his comming, vnto whom he shewed no maner of discontent, but ieausting, said: you my maisters of Barnestable and Tivertonne, being so neare, make hast to be with your wiues, and make all good bargaines: see what I haue bought to make my loane merrie when I come home. Nay quoth one, though they be good and well worth the carriage, yet will they not keepe so farre, the weather being so hote. Therefore let vs eate them to dinner, and be merry togeather before we part. Eat them quoth William, soft sirs, they cost me more. Why said they, you shall haue as much as they cost you with thanks. You say like honest men, said William, let vs ride no further then Bridgewater to night, and take my bargain,

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gaine, on this condition you pay me what they cost, and my selfe go cleare for buying and cariage. To which they all assented, and forward they set a round pace to Bridgewater, where they dined, bespake good cheare for supper, where the Rabbits were a dish: enuited their friends of the Towne, with whom they were very merrie at supper. William often demanding how they liked their cheare, which they all commended. The guest gone, a reckoning was called and the host payed. Now Sigmior William (quoth Oliuer) what cost the Rabbits: and wel remembred said Otho, we had like to haue forgotten them. Pea had said William, that is all one, forbearance is no quitfance: giue me my present money as your promise was, and after I wil bestow on you to bedward a gallon of the best wine in the towne. You will gaine much by that said Robert. Get or lose I will do it. Tell vs then (quoth Walter) what cost they? My maisters I doubt not but you will all beleue me: speaking on my credit, twentie pounds they cost me, and some odde money, how much I do not perfectly remember: wherefore pay me twentie pounds, and let the rest go. Puse not at my large account, for your haste was cause thereof: leauing me in such manner without regard: recounting all that hapned betwene the threues and him. Whereat though they were ashamed, and more greued for the danger he was in, they could not forbear to laugh. Well my maisters said William, ieast on, you shall not scape one penney better cheape: for as I am an honest man, you shall pay it, to teach you leaue your honest friends hereafter: whose life was by your negligence in great hazard. So iustly sharing the twentie poundes amongst them, turning it to a ieast, with a good will they deliuered it. William called for his gallon of wine promised, which they merrily drunke to wash downe the Rabbits: and the next morning when they had rid three or foure heures together as their way lay, they parted every man to his home faithfull friends, and true louers one of the other.

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CHAP. XII

How these famous Marchants for wrongs done them by the Frenchmen, equipped twelue ships of worth, by authoritie of the King, and their successe.



The Frenchmen in times past, hauing secret enuie against our Nation, some discorde hapning betwene the Kings of both the Realmes: great broyles were in hand on either partie, and many outrages by land and sea committed, the poore Marchants euer hauing the worst, whose goods were taken, rifled and solde, without recompence. Amongst those which had great cause to complaine of their losse, the Marchants of Exeter and the Westerne parts, had not their parts least: being men of trade, aduenturing euerie where, lost much: so long endured without redress, that vexed thereat, and some of them neare vnbene, by humble suite to the King, obtained Letters of Represail, to serue against those and their Adherents which spoiled them: whereupon the Marchants of Exeter furnished and manned in warlike manner, sixe tall ships, at their owne proper charge: of which Flote, they made choise of William for Admirall: who hauing the charge, minding carefully to accomplish what he had vndertaken, sent vnto his Consorts of the other Townes, requesting their companies and aide: who willing to accompany their friend, as also to recouer part of their losse, furnished in like manner, other sixe ships, themselves seruing for Captaines of their owne goods.

William hauing the charge of Generall, with such countenance demeaned himselfe, valiant and courteous, that every man presaged good successe in his fortunes: that sundrie Gentlemen and men of valour made suite for to accompanie him.

William

Marchants of Devonshire.

William carefull of what he had in hand, having the most his owne charge, slackt no time: but hearing of the arrivall of his flete at Dorehmouth, the place appointed of meeting, frollikes with his friends, vieewing and mustring their companies, which were all goodly men, and well furnished. Not long after a faire winde blowing, to the favour of God they commended their actions, and the equitie of their cause: putting forward with great resolution to the sea. At their going forth, taking their farewell after the manner of such service, as all the country admired and cheared their friends which were beholders thereof.

These Gallants leaving our owne coast, according to directions, plied for Pell Ile, the trade, and other places fit to find their enemies. Of whose being upon the Coast, the Admiral of France was advertised, who by chance was then in the Road of Charleboyes, sharing English goods lately taken: and hearing of these warlike shippes, in the night fell lower to the mouth of the river, and in the morning taking the advantage of the Tyde, came to sea. Where shortly by our flete, which looked sharply out for them, they were discourred, and a view taken of their flete, which were twice as many, and more goodly ships: but William resolved to see their courage and trie it: after he had called his flete together, and given direction for the fight, assured of his company, and their faithfull industrie, provided every way fit for the same, they ware with the french, displaying Saint George over their toppes. The frenchmen seeing these Gallants, rather thought them mad then otherwise, so to worde them, having the oddes, especially on their owne Confinces. And with them, intending to have compassed the whole flete, and so to have made quick dispatch: Wordeing them, and carrying them away, where in they were deceived. For William came with more resolution, as they afterward found to their cost. Our flete coming up with them, after a defiance with Trumpets given, William and his Vice-Admirall Oliver, thrust amongst the flete, and in despite worded

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the Admirall, and tooke the Generall into their owne ship, lea-
ving some men aboard to keepe her: and sending the French
men all away with their boates, to seeke their fortunes. This
onset beginning with good successe, added courage to our com-
panies, and greatly discomforted the French, having lost their
Admirall. Yet continued y^e fight very hotly foure or five houres:
In which time many of the French lay drenched in the deepe,
both men and ships. William keeping his owne, who was so
well followed by his companions, that the French wearied
with the fight, and their hope, past hope to escape, William
and his company having the aduantage of the shoze, lying be-
twene them and the sea, yielded themselves to his mercie:
of whom being possesse, he tooke the principall men prisoners,
made choise of the best ships, and manned them with their Or-
dinance, such Marchandise and money, whereof they had a
boundance aboard: freed many Englishmen they had taken:
sinking the most part of the ships, saving the worst to carrie
men a shoze. Which done, in despite of those on land which
should contradict his doings, went into the Road of conquest,
fired the ships in the Roade, and brought two Gallies away.
This finished, when he had houered upon the coast two whole
weekes, to see if any durst come and finde fault with what was
done: with great wealth and more honour to the countrey, he
returned to Dorthmouth, recompencing his company, well
satisfied for their losse, and richly storing the kings treasure,
to the good liking of his Maiestie, who gaue the many thanks:
and generall ioy of the whole land, whose honour it was.

CHAP. XIII.

*How Ioane Villiams wife, for sundrie mad parts plaied,
could not indure her seruant James: and his departure to
Spaine.*

Mistresse Ioane growing now to more reckoning of her
selfe, standing on her husbands advancement, being
Maister

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Maiſter Captaines wife, expected from her neighbours more honour then had of custome bene tendered, especially of her seruants: which Iames her man perceiuing, scorned to do as she commanded, being the eldest seruant, the principall dealer for his Maiſter, hauing charge of all: which Distresse Ioane stomacked much, and often wold crosse him with taunting speeches, not forgetting the knauish pranke played betwene his Maiſter and her: albeit she conſealed the same. Amongst many the madde tricks Iames offered his Distresse, this one she tooke most exceptions at. In the time of her husbands absence, her selfe lying in of a young sonne, many her neighbors banquetted with her, as the custome is in that Country, at which time with other Williams friends, sundry the best in the Cittie oft times to William had themselves to supper, against whose coming, all daintie vyands that money or friends could procure was provided, all things fit to content: on these guests, Ioane gaue strict charge, diligent attendance by her seruants be giuen, for the better credit of themselves and their Maiſter: which they promised to do. The guests set, and their Cates orderly serued, Iames wayped in good sozt, yet not to Distresse Ioanes content, hauing many to employ: some by chance wanted cleane Trenchers, for which, she tooke occasion in open presence to chcke her man Iames, commanding him to see if there wanted nothing on the Table: and willed him to bring in a wheele-Barrow, to carry away the bones and foule trenchers. Iames hercat moued, following her counsell, like a diligent seruant, ranne hastily for the same, and brought it to the Table. At which least the company had good sport, and long time busied them with laughter. But Distresse Ioane, seeing her selfe befoze her friendes so scorned, frowned, pouted, and swelled on Iames, and hardly could forbear waxing: yet let it passe amongst many other prankes, untill her husbands returne from seas: vnto whom with teares, she complained her of sundry wrongs done by her seruant Iames. Which William like a kinde Maiſter, waiping his youth, and good seruice he had receiued from him, sought to excuse with gentle words: per-

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swading his wife to the like. Which Ioane hearing, passing the bounds of modestie, she protested, that if he kept him longer in his house, he accounted more of him then of his wife: nor might she be brought otherwise to beleue: and so bowed, that either one or other of them two, must part, if William intended to liue in quiet. William wisely waying the benefit of so good a seruant, was loth to leaue him, untill by continuall clamours of his wife he was enforced: whom to content, he found meanes to send Iames his man to the ports of Cales and Saint Lucas in Spaine, with his marchandise that he had then shipped, as Marchant and chiefe factor: on which motion made to Iames by his Maister, and assurance there to continue three yeares, which was all the time he had to serue, Iames was well pleased, being perswaded of his Maisters loue, how much sooner he was discontent with his Mistresse, whose enuy he was assured to be principall cause thereof: which with patience he took in as good part as he could: providing himselfe to go with the ship: which being readie, his Maister deliuered him his chartie partie, and Billes of lading, with many good and graue aduertisements: So taking his farewell of Maister and Mistresse, & all his fellow seruants, he left behinde him this Adieu in wyting, and so betooke him to his affaires.

<p>Thogh parting be mourning Where friendship is deere: Yet better be packing, Then stay longer heere.</p>	<p>For where they maligne, Their woe they procure.</p>
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<p>Our <i>William</i>, sweet <i>William</i>, Is matched with <i>Ione</i>, Whose will, not <i>Williams</i>, Doth cause me to mone.</p>	<p>Experience hath taught it, And true it doth proue: The Diuel and a woman, Seld conquered by loue.</p>
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<p>The wrath of a woman May no man endure:</p>	<p>A woman enuious, Whose chance is to wed: Were better be troubled With a diuel in his bed.</p>
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Therefore

Marchants of Deuonshire.

Therefore my good fellowes For women how euer
From whom I must part: They chance speak you faire:
Forget not to learne Will alwaies be readie
This lesson by hart. Your woe to prepare.

What euer your Maister If in the least sort
Appoint to be donne: You crosse their intent:
Regard your Mistresse They'l dye in the quarell
If blowes you will shunne. But they wil cause you be shēt

The night *Cromes* fauour Say *Iames* for his farwell
Secke you to obtaine: This lesson doth giue:
More shall be your quiet, And please your Mistresse
But better your gaine. So long as you liue.



CHAP. XIII.

How the Kings Army marched to *Exeter*, to relieue
the Citie, besieged by the Cornish
Rebells.



Amongst sundry Tumults, and rebellious
assemblies, wherewith in times past this
lande was afflicted, a route of Traytors
were gathered together in the *West*, be-
rie mightie was their power, and their
tyrannie moze, who spared not to waste,
spole, and ruinate, all along the whole
Countrey as they marched together,
without

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without regard of God, Prince, or naturall affection, of that clymat where they receiued life. The tyrannie of these Rebels bruted thzoughout the Country, every man fled for safegard of their liues, wiues and childzen, to the noble Citie of Exeter: as a place of sanctuary from those blood-thirstie reprobates: Where the Rebels followed with their mercilesse army, and with strong siege begirt it: vsing all possible means they could, by force and pollicie to gaine the possession thereof: which in vaine they practised, many assaults they made, which were manfully resisted by the honourable and true liegemen Citizens of the same: and sundry valiant and dangerous scallies made by them vpon the enemy, weakening their force with great slaughter, and pulling from them of their store of victualls, to releue their wants, which were very many and great: yet dismayed they not, but continued their defence with great valour, and euermlasting honour vnto them. In this time of trouble, was William called to high office amongst them, in his owne person doing great and woorthie service, to the encouragement of the multitude: whom of his owne bountie and charge of victualls he releued: saving their liues both by valour and liberall store of prouision, famine had so generally possessed the same.

Of these outrages by the Rebels committed, the King was aduertised, who graciously tendering their distresse, and pittying those his louing subiects, whose valour and constancy to him was such, speedily leuied a power of men at armes, and with such hastie iournies as was requisite, marched towards Exeter for their reliefe. Of whose comming, the Rebels hauing knowledge, like a rable of faint hearted miscreants, raised their siege, and departed with bagge and baggage. The tydings of whose departure, by Postes to his highnesse was signified, who notwithstanding continued his iourney to Exeter, to see their battered walles, and by his presence to encourage them and others his subiects to like loyaltie, if such chaunces should happen. Vnto whom his Maiestie was most ioyfully welcomed, as appeared by their entertainment: which was graciously

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only accepted, as by his honourable thanks given did appeare.

CHAP. XV.

How *William* and his companions, *Oliver*, *Otho*, and the rest, to make the King's sport, challenged all comers, at wrestling, foote-ball, and hurling, which he performed.



The King whose countenance hath purchased the Cities libertie, reposed him amongst those his loyall subiects of Exeter, who to shewe their loue, inabled their greatest diligence. Amongst which, William and Oliver, whose wealth was matchlesse, and best able to performe what they undertooke: intending to shewe their Countreies accustomed exercises of activitie befoze his Highnesse, made generall challenge throughout the Countrey of Deuon, and Cornwall, 24. men, to 24. chuse them where they could, at Exeter befoze the King, on a day prefired, at these sportes, viz. wrestling, hurling, and footeball. This challenge given out, William that had his felicitie in keeping men of activitie, chiefly excelled in these qualities: sent likewise to his friends, Walter of Tornes, Otho of Plymouth, Iohn of Barnestable, and Robert of Tyuerton, to furnish him with such men as as they could of their owne, which were able to maintaine the challenge. Who hauing notice thereof, and knowing the assured day, sayled not their old friend William, but accordingly brought to Exeter twelue good men of theirs, to ioyne with William and his twelue. To encounter which, according to the proclamation, repaired to Exeter many worshipfull Gentlemen, with their followers, and sundry chiefe and well experienced in those qualities. William and his companions, willing to encourage their people, hath for the purpose, against the first day, suted all their company in Crimson Satten, with
G scarlet

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scarlet Cappes and Feathers, vnder which, every man to play in, wore a Blaskcoate of like coloured Taffata. The time assigned come, and the King taking his place to behold his exercise of wrestling, appointed for the first dayes pastime, William and his friends aboue named, apparelled in Coats of black Heluet and Chaines of Gold, accompanied with many Whil- lers to guard the place, marched on to the Greene called Sou- thing-Hay, without the Citie walles, followed with his ap- pointed troupes, attyred as you haue heard: who taking their places, were instantly followed by the Country men. Then to answer them, apparelled in suites of purple Satten, and ledde by a knight of great name, who passing by his highnesse place, bowed themselves, and marching once or twise about the rayles toke their stande, opposed with the Citizens. This done, proclamation was made for the quiet of the Gamesters, who proceeded to their pastimes, wherein of both sides was shewed many manfull feates, and flights of pollicie, to his Ma- jesties great pleasure: who by generall voyce of the whole company, gaue the honour of that dayes exercise, to Williams Whentiles & their fellows. Which done, they marched away in order as they came, the Citizens triumphing for their suc- cesse.

The next day at the houre appointed, the King being pla- ced, William with his company marched in like maner to the field, who were apparelled in Blaskcoates, and Hose of white Taffata, with wrought Nightcaps on their heads, readie to their pastime of hurling. And the defendants in watched Tal- lata, likely suted. Where betwæne them, much valour and agi- litie of bodie was shewed, as leaping, vaulting, running and wrestling, wherein they excelled: and for their cunning, of the King worthily praised and rewarded, who highly commended the sport, wishing all his subjects such as they were.

This dayes honour to the Whentiles was likewise adiu- ged: who like Victors left the field this second day, to the great contentment of William and his followers.

The

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The third dayes sport which was foteball, appointed to be performed, William and his comperes marched to the field, his companies apparellled as before, in red and blew Taffata, and the Country defendants, in Orange Taberry. No sooner entered they the field, their duties done, and the players stripped, the King to do them grace and encourage them to their play, caused a Noble man of his traine to call by their Ball, which came no longer on the ground, but was taken at advantage: then began the strength and nimbleness of men to be tried, with lifting, shoveling, and casting one the other, some with violence, others with fine sights, generally commended, continuing their sport without victory on either side, along time, untill by unhappie chance, one of Williams company, a proper man, and a Gentleman bozne, was with a fall from a lustic mans armes, unfortunately slaine. This Traget is more grieved the King and all his company, then any thing, who commaunded their pastime to cease, adiudging the honour to Exeter Citizens, yet recompenced royally the defendants, and gaue them many gracious speeches of commendation: but sorrowed more for the slaine Gentleman, then for the losse of a million of Golde. The Gentleman he caused with great pompe to be enterred, and gaue the prize euer after to Deuonshire and Cornwall, for those exercises: which continues them matchlesse to this day.

CHAP. XVI.

How the Cardinall for some especiall businesse, leaving his Highnesse at Exeter, departed towards London.



He Cardinall then Legat from the Pope, accompanying the King on his iourney, hearing of Letters, and some spirituall ambassage arined, toke leaue of his highnesse, for his iourney to London: whom to accompany, William and his fellow Aldermen of the city, addressed themselves:

A pleasant discourse of fixe gallant

ryding on, pleasantly discoursing of their pastimes and enter-
tainment, vntil they came to the stones, markes of the Cities
libertie, which the Cardinall taking notice of, said; Gentlemen
I perceiue that here your liberties end, wherfoze I wil trouble
you no further: retorne now I beseech you, and acknowledge
my dutie to the King. William being of moze spirit then many
of the others, that thought not on their paines, in a pleasant
humour thus said.

Pleaseth your Grace to pardon vs, though here ende our
Cities liberties, yet may we bring our friends further, and
therefoze will bring your Holinesse to the Gallowes and there
leauē you: meaning a place of execution, distant from the Ci-
tie a myle and better.

The Cardinall taking his words short, said: Po no my
maisters, turning it to a ieast, without any exceptions, and ac-
cepted their companies to that place: In which way thither-
ward, the Cardinals horse chanced to drinke in a b;oke, where
his horse so pleasantly conceited, would faine haue drunke, but
he restrained him: which the Cardinall perceiuing, said. Syr,
why let you your horse from drinking?

Pleaseth your Grace (quoth he) he shall not drinke befoze
your Graces horse hath done. At which the Cardinall laughed
hartily, saying: Syr, I knowe not how to requite this great
kindnesse, but if euer your horse come where mine may shewe
like curtesie, assure you, your horse shall drinke first, in despite
of his teeth.

Thus passed they on the way merily, to their iourney ap-
pointed, to bring his Holinesse: where the Cardinall remem-
bring his friends kinde proffer, said.

Syr, I take it, this is the place, where by covenant we
must bid farewell: wherfoze I thank you for my great cheere
and sport, and for your paines. This is the Gallowes I take
it, whither since you would needes accompanie mee, here I
meane to leauē you, and so to you all gentle friendes fare-
well. Where with moste friendly and louing imbrascings
they left the Cardinall to his iourney, and the Citizens retur-
ned

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ned to Exeter: where to the King they recommit what hapned them: who tooke great pleasure therein, and often would vse in merriment, the parting of the Cardinall, with the Citizens. Who, a weeke after, feasted his highnesse and his traine, and so with great thanks left them.

CHAP. XVII.

How *Iames UWilliams* seruant accompanied the Dukes of *Medina* and *Florence*, at play, and how *Iames* at one cast, lost fiftie thousand Duckets.



Iames, the first seruant of William, continuing long in Cales and Saint Lucas, on his maisters businesse, by his good carriage and gentle behaviour had more credit then all the English Marchants there resident, or thither trading: not onely with the countrey, but with the Duke of Medina, who continually vsed Iames as a companion at all exercises, or play whatsoeuer: such was his bountie and nurture, who thought himselfe a Spanish Duke, or a Noble man at least. Favour of all estates he had, as worthily deserued: his purse euer pliant to the poore, who euer sought him in distresse, whether Stranger or English, felt his bountie.

These good parts of Iames, gained him loue and fauour, especially with the Duke, who being a Prince of noble minde, fauoured no Nation like the English, or had pleasure with any but them. For like he was in their company, commending their bountie, and wondring at their costly fare and attire, which would cause him many times to leaue his owne Table and omit himselfe to their dyet, gracing them more then all Nations with his presence.

The Noble Duke who by often resort to their house, and other times had noated their seuerall dispositions, and highly commended

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commended them, purposed to trie at full what was in them, hauing on a time the Duke of Florence in his Court, vnto whom he had liberally spoken our Englishmens praise: and that he might better credit his speech, he ordained a most costly banquet: to which he intited the chieft of our English Merchants: amongst which, Don Iaques de Engleterre, so, so he named him, was not forgotten.

James, which cared not for coyne, but wayed his countries honour, against the prefixed time, suited himselfe very rich after our countrey fashion: and with his companions to the Court is come: where with great welcomes of both Dukes they were entertained, and feasted most costly with rare Cates, spending the time of dinner with mirth, and much pleasant parley.

Dinner ended, to sundry sportes they fell: some dance, some discourse, other court the dames. James and other two of his companions, accompany the Dukes at dice: betwene them was very great gaine, and store of money on each side walking. The Duke setting great summes which was neuer refused. The Duke of Medina perceiuing it, thought verily to make them turne craven. Being somewhat discontent, losing so much, and few Crownes before him, pulled a Jewell from his chaine, valued at fiftie thousand Duckets: daring in high tearmes, the proudest Englishman to throw at it. This sterne chalenge of the Duke, dismayed our gallants, who looking one on the other, strained curtesie who should accept it, none so so hardie to aduenture thereon, the value being so great, all their substance not able to counteruaile it, and loath to lie in prison for a cast at Dice.

James noting the timorousnesse of his companions, chearing their faint spirits, said.

Countrey men, what all amozt: hath one proude word or murthering you, that hitherto scorned to be dared, but like true Liegemen to our King, hath maintained his and our countries honour? No gallants no, were his King here and would pawning his Crown, making so peremptorie a chalenge,
my

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my selfe would giue the aduenture thereon: if life, goods, or credit would answere the losse thereof. Therefore Saint George Englands honoured Patrone (quoth Iames) I am the man: and stepping to the table, clapped hand on the Jewell, and couered it with his pawne: promising to make good, the valued summe of fiftie thousand Duckets, if he lost it: which the Duke accepted.

But in unhappie time for Iames, who lost by fortune of the Dice, at that throw, not onely all the wealth he had gained, but his Pasters Stock, and all the goods he had of other Marchants: to deale for as factor: all which neuer daunted his courage, nor could the Duke perceiue in his countenance any change, but with great chearefulnesse, drew the monney he had of his owne, and borrowed of his companions all they had about them: he paid it in part, pawning his honest word for the rest, to be satisfied within ten dayes next following. Which done, spending some time in banquetting, they took their leaues, all the company grieved in heart for Iames, who in that humour had utterly vndone himselfe.

Iames recouering his lodging, heauie in heart, although he were light of substance: began to consider of his estate, it grieved him more for his good friends in England, his Paster, and such whose goods he had lost, then for himselfe. In these passions of discontent, when hee had a while, like one lost from himselfe remained, chearing his spirits, hee thus said.

Base peasant, but worthy the name of Englishman: what dishonour were it for thee and thy Nation, if thy coward thoughts by these proud Spaniards could be perceiued: accountest thou more of trash then thy countrys honour: shal this pelfe alter thy former contented humour, drawing thy pleasant conceited minde, to a labouring of cares, and so quite ouerthrow thy selfe? No, no, cease to sorrow, a pound of care neuer paid one ounce of debt. Let this be thy comfort: thou wast for the time, companion to the greatest Prince in Spaine, then fail not to dispaire, quiet thy effects, follow thy businesse, and satisfie the Duke:
leall

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least this more disgrace thy countrey for none payment, then the insolent Spaniards, hath gained welth by his Indies. 'Tis farre better to die a begger in thine owne countrey, then here to be disgraced, and discountenanced: the which all those Gallants of my countrey, that shal come hereafter into these Confines, with Billions of gold cannot redeeme. Bestir thee then, make sale of thy goods, call for thy debts, & hauing the summe, glut the myser Duke with golde, though hereafter thou sterue.

Thus said, leauing his studie, with diligence he applied him, against this promised time to procure the moneie, which by his friends he conueyed to the Dukes house, where he tendered the vtmost farthing.

The Duke of a milde and honourable inclination, bethinking him what a great losse it was for a Merchant, tendering his estate when he had sundry waies discoursed with him, caused his Steward to returne him the one halfe of his money, deuiding it betwene them: which Iames tooke in great scozne, and more grieued to be found other in the latter ende, then at the beginning: yet with courtesie and thanks returned the same: saying to his companions, That neuer Spaniard should report he was Benefactor to an Englishman. So taking leave of the Dukes of Medina and Florence, departed to his lodging, lamented of those Princes for his losse: but highly honoured for his magnanimitie and haughtie spirit, which made the Dukes censure him, to be doubtlesse, the sonne of some mighty Potentate, how basely so euer shewded in those his accustomed attires.

CHAP. XVIII.

How *Iames* travelling from *Cales* to *Saint Lucas*, encountered a gallant Lady, widow of a Spanish Cauoleere of great honour.

IAMES this *Deuonshire* gallant, hauing finished with the Duke, and passed all accounts with his friends, satisfiing all
such

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such summes at full which he had taken vp , for clearing this great sum , had notice of the arriual of certaine English ships at Cheryes. To which place he hired a guide and post-horse to heare the newes from England : taking his adieu of his companions, away he goeth, only accompanied with his guide. So long traueilling , that his horse being wearie , desired his Maisters lodging in the fields, for lodging that night he was not likely to reconer : his guide fearing some hard measure, being better horse left him , thow his threatening speech, which brought him to a very melancholy humour. While he was debating with himselfe what should betide him that night , hauing brought himselfe within such a Thicket or Groue of Orange, Lemmon, or Pomgranat trees, casting vp his eyes betwene the glimling of the light , he espied a gallant Cauolere brauely mounted, vpon a swift running Genat.

This sight hapning in a place so suspicious, more appalled him then the losse of his money, dreadding more company and bad conditions , of some lurking theues to take away his life : yet arming himselfe with courage , resolved to make them buy it dearely , if they did not overmatch him : determining with himselfe for his owne safetie , he came nearer to his suspected enemie , who crossed him the way betwene the trees in such manner , as might driue a man to doubt.

James comming vp to him, and hauing a vigilant eye, espied at his saddle bowe a Case of Pistolles , and a Case of Rapiers by his side, shewing in his countenance a sterne and heauie looke, which made him more mistrust , not without cause, holding on his course with such speed as his tired Fade would make : (at length well overtooke) the Spaniard hauing seene James, making lesse haste for his company : being met, according to the Spanish fashion, great welcomes is enterchanged with the Basilanus Manus ; the Spaniard pacing easily by him , desiring his company , and questioning him , of what countrey and profession he was.

h

James

A pleasant discourse of sixe gallant

James that neuer feared or shamed the name of Englishman, told him what he was, and how by villainie of his guide, he was thus distressed. Which the Spaniard hearing, tendered his estate being a stranger, swearing by his fathers beard (for he had none of his owne) that could he tell how to meete the villaine that offered the wrong, he would reuenge it on him with his life. This courtesie deserved thanks: which James very thankfully rendered him: yet trusted nothing more his good words: passing on the way, diuersly discoursing, the Spaniard courteous in words said.

(Gentleman) albeit I haue bene no farre traveller, the better to yeld the dutie thereunto appertaining, yet the law of humanitie tieth men by reason, one man to tender other in distress: what my good or bad fortune may be, tis best knowne to him that guideth mens thoughts. I may perchance, be like wise distressed as you are now, where I should be glad of fauour. If therefore you dare commit the charge of your selfe to my company, I will be this night your conduct and warrantise from all harmes: your host a worthy Gentleman, and my very good friend, dwelling in these vallies: where how euer you fare, your welcome shall be good, and so much the better welcome to my selfe, being of that famous Countrey of England.

James, that with Spanish courtesie could not be overmatched, returned great thanks for so kinde an offer, how soeuer he was affected to take or refuse it: holding it small wisdome to accept euery kinde profer of straungers, for feare of repentance: yet when he had considered how comfortlesse hee was left, with the perill he was subiect too, lying all night in those Desarts, rather consented to yeld his lifes safetie to men endued with reason, then hazard it amongst vnreasonable beasts: wherefore commending his safetie to his power, gainst whom no enemy hath resistance, with many kinde thanks accepted the Spaniards fauour, and accordingly was brought by him to the mansion of a very braue Gentleman: who hearing of their arriuall, commanded their hoxses to be well ordered: then
selues.

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selues by the Maister and Lady of the place, with moze then ordinarie entertainment.

The Mistresse of the house and her daughters, keeping them company in their chamber, while their supper was purwaying, where in pleasant discoursing, commending one the others Countrey, James for fashions sake praising the courtlie of Spaine, and the Spaniards the gallantnesse of England, and our Countrey men.

CHAP. XIX.

How James lay with the Spaniard his companion, and found him to be a woman.



Their respast taken, and the night growing on, every man requiring rest, a seruant of the house appointed for that seruice, demaunded if they pleased to lodge together, or haue their beds sundery prepared: which question, James gaue the Spaniard leaue to answer, as best acquainted in the house, and loth to offend with boldnesse, any one, especially him who had provided him of so good an host.

The Spaniard hauing in his owne choise, to take a bedfellow, said: Gentle Englishman, seeing you haue put it to my discretion, and the weather requireth warme lodging, let it please you, to accept me for your bedfellow this night, so shall our ease bee the moze, and the seruant of the house lesse troubled.

Thanks good sir (quoth James) for this great fauour, which I am carefull how to deserue: besides my payment, which I will largely in the house discharge.

Sir (quoth he) our host is a Gentleman, beuissfull and courtous,

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courteous, who in his owne kinde nature, doth hold it merito-
rious, to entertaine strangers, especially such as are distres-
sed.

While they were at this parley, word was brought them,
their lodging was prepared, to which they prouide the. James
and his bedfellow contending who should in courtesie make
choise of their place: which in the end James protested should be
the Spaniards.

Whereupon to bed he goeth: James detracting time, linge-
ring vntill he perceiued the Spaniard quiet a sleepe, then slip-
ping off his doublet, wherein his most store of gold was quil-
ted, he priuily conueied the same betwene the mattresses,
whereon they lay. That done, and the dozes fast made, to bed
he hyeth, not so easily, but that his comming awakened his
bedfellow.

Who verie friendly bad him welcome, with whom ente-
ring into discourse, the Spaniard entreated him, to shew him
the difference if any were, betwene the Spanish and his
countrey Gentlewomen: which in such manner by James
was accomplished, as the one was not more praised, neither
for beutie, or vertue, then the other commended: which equall
iudgement, was thankfully balanced by him, that gaue him
many thanks for the same.

Continuing their parley, the Spaniard vnder Benedicite,
besought him yet further to tell him, if in time of all his sojour-
nyng in Spaine, hee had not made choise of any one to par-
ticipate with in mariage, or that he had bestowed his loue and
liking on any his countreywomen. All which questions, James
could conceiue no reason of, nor to what end they were deman-
ded. But simply answered the truth, he neither was married,
or giuen consent to any, but his choise was yet freely to be
made, where fancie best pleased, and he was likeliest to ob-
taine.

With this, laying his hand ouer James naked brest, feeling
his body, he desired James to do the like: in search whereof,
he found his bedfellow a woman: beutiful, and of an exceeding
goodly

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godly personage, Iames astonied at this metamoꝛphosis, was by her thus reuiued.

Kinde companion and courteous Englishman, let not this suddaine motion dismay thee, for no disparagement shall it be, to lend thy loue and liking (if thou canst loue) vnto me, who am honourably descended, and sometime wife to a most noble gentleman, as is any in this Countrey: sister I am to the principallest man in account with our King: by whom if thou list to loue, thy estate shall be to honour aduanced: with my coyne, liuing, Jewels, and Plate, I will richly endowe thee: in such abundance, that thou shalt neuer need in hazard to aduenture thy life: my people shall honour thee, and maister shalt thou be of all my possessions. Then loue braue man, loue her that liueth in the sweete hope of thy contentment, and euer enioy the loyaltie of my true and spotlesse loue.

Iames that had many hammer beating in his braines, was moze set a worke by this vnerpected chance, looking moze for death, then to purchase so good a wife, his bedfellow rather resembling a Caelere, then a Countesse, began to listen to the sweete notes of this pleasing Nightingale, tuning such high notes of honour, wealth, and Wedlocke, could hardly on the suddaine be wonne to credite her speech, but rather coniectured to be some Curtizan, then a Lady of honour or worth: wherefore desirous to learne further, by faire words, neither denying or graunting her sute, he besought her in loue to explaine, for his better satisfying, the occasion of her disguise, and place of habitation, armed in such maner.

I know my deare Loue (quoth she) for so let me entreate to call thee, my husband of whom thou shalt heare much honour, when thou shalt arrive at Cheries, hauing a deadly quarell, ah deadly I may too well say, for to him so it proued: being by his enemies watched, as harmlesse he was following for pleasure his Hawkes, was suddenly by the wretched homicide surprisled, and by his slaues, blood-thirstie villaines, butchered: whose death in mine owne person, sundry times as you see me disguised, I sought to reuenge: working many meanes to accom-

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my will therein, as this day I did, hauing assurance by some neare him, (which with money I haue subbozned) to giue me intelligence of his trauel, which unhappie, I haue vnfortunatly missed, to my great discontent. Beleeue me gentle friend, that speaks no more but trueth, for no more but trueth will I say to thee, whose ioy thou art, and whose loue shall be more pleasing then the worlds treasury, as thy selfe shalt manifest when thou shalt come to thy iournies ende: if Cheries be the place thou entendest to go.

Deare Loue (quoth she) I am troublesome vnto thee, which art weary and discontent: wherefore pardon me, and with this kisse, let me commit thee to thy swete rest, which I hope shall proue both our contents.

Iames, that was not so bad a Plat, but he had learned how many ancozrs longed to the Trade, commended her likewise to rest: albeit his owne was not like to be much, so many sundry thoughts encreasing of his swet bedfellow, with whom he could with friendship to be continued, as wel in regard of her person, as her honour and great abilitie, which more affected, considering his estate, desirous to cleare with his good friends in England, whom in a humour he had wronged, consuming their wealth, how euer he liketh or disliketh, in spirit is he comforted: taking it for a great fauour of God, in his distresse to giue him this comfort in leopordie of his life, in a wilderness unfrequented, where no reliefe was to be found, by her to be fauoured and preferred, he determined how euer to procure her Loue, and requite it: but not with sure promise to tye himselfe, that may not with conscience be recalled.

While he was at his Memento, in an extacie what should betide him, the Lady awaked, imbrasing him in her armes, in in such kinde manner and proffers of loue, as might haue giuen life to Pygmalions Image. Whether it be Englishmens unkindnesse to requite such fauour with disdaine, I referre to your censures. But how so euer it fell out betwene them, the Lady was so exceedingly well pleased, as shee loued euer

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uer after Englishmen, better then her owne Country men,
to her death.

The wearisome winters night is not moze displeasing to
a troubled spirit, then the grieve both conceiued in enioying so
short a time of familiar contentment, well content of either
part, to haue entertained their hard lodging for longer time.
But Iames hastening to see the end of these hoped fortunes, de-
sired to be on his iourney, though better pleased with his Spa-
nish bedfellow, then with all his Country men: protesting by
no small bolwes, that if all Spaniards in bed brought such con-
tentment, he would neuer desire to lye with Englishman
moze.

CHAP. XX.

How *Iames* accompanied the Ladies to *Cheryes*, and what
entertainment she gaue him there.



The Sunnes bright beames so gloriouly dis-
playing, telleth these contented Lovers the
morning is farre spent, which hastened them
to arise, making all the speede they could to
performe their iourney: for which being pro-
vided, Iames tendered mony largely for his
byands, which of the Host and Mistresse of the house, was
refused: wherefore bountifullly rewarding the seruants atten-
dants, they take their leaues, taking their horses which were
well refreshed, speeding them with all haste to Cheryes, where
being arrived, Iame: as it was betwene them agreed, taketh
his lodging in an *Mitre*, by her assigned him, her selfe by a
backe way, secretly conuayed to her owne house, appointing
Iames to stay the coming of her Messenger, which should be
his conduct to her.

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No sooner arrived James in this place of contentment, but sundry of his Country men and acquaintance he meeteth, by whom he had certaine knowledge of the welfare of his Maister & all his friends in England. With this company a while he merrily conuersed, perusing his Letters, and taking order for discharge of such goods as they brought, consoling the heaviness of his hearts sorrow, and colouring his thoughts with shewes of content.

The houre being come of appointment, when he should visit his new acquainted friend, who sayled not her time, as carefull thereof, but accordingly dispatched her conductor for her Loue James, of whose coming, as soon as James had knowledge, taking leaue of his companions, he followed his guide to the house of the Gentlewoman, whom in her owne forme we call Madam Petronella: who desirous to shewe all kind welcome to her friend, provided to giue him entertainmēt with most costly and rare cheare, thinking all things too little, how costly so euer, that money or loue could procure, for a guest of so high extreme, which might commaund his Distresse and all she had.

James that came not before he was expected, was espied a farre off, of his kind Lady Petronella, who attended his coming at the gate, where longly unbrazing him, she had him most hartly welcome to his owne house: leading him by the hand to place appointed for supper. James, seeing this strange chaunge of his new bedfellow, being now her selfe most sumptuously apparelled and adozned with rich Jewels of great value, was stricken into a dumpe, oftsones admiring her stately personage, beantie and grace, her modest countenance, and costly furniture of her mansion, which rather resembled a Paradise than any other thing.

In midst of these extremities, which reason required to ende, calling himselfe to minde, and not forgetting his dutie to the kind Lady, he rendered many thanks, returning her imbrazings, with kisses, and interest, farre aboue ten in the hundred. The Lady hauing welcomed her Loue, as you haue heard,

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heard, to beguile time, while supper was readie, led him to her bed Chamber, which for the rare and rich hangings of Embodery he neuer had seene the like: in which the armes of her late husbands auncestries and her owne, was with cunning wrought, in such manner as Art could not amend. To please his minde yet farther, she openeth her Closet, her Casket of Jewels, Chests of Plate, and bagges of mony: all which, with her selfe, she againe tendered him. Long had not Iames contemplated on this heavenly blessing of God prouided for him, when word was brought that supper attended their comming on the Table, at which they past the time with much pleasant parley, but chiefly the Lady desires, to discourse of English Ladies, and their guise, the maner of the Country, and such which Iames with rare perfection fitted to her content, passing from one discourse to an other, so long, that Iames calling to minde his Maister William and other good friends in England, his pleasant humour was abated, and his minde not on his halfe-penny (as our English Prouerbe is), but studied how to satisfie them, and maintaine his credit.

To this alteration, Perronella gaue good heed, imagining that her Loue tooke little regard of all her profer, wealth, loue, or beautie, yet to bring him from his passion, she said.

Signior Iaques, since our first acquaintance, which hath not bin long, regarding thy welfare, and tending thy good, I haue diligently noted thy person, the onely content of my soule on earth, and withall, thy melancholy disposition, and deepe fetcht sighes, too farre vnbecoming thy selfe, which hath made me much admire, and causeth my great sorrow. The occasion whereof, if thou please to participate with me, my endeuour shall be to redresse it, if in my power it rest: if not, but that you conseale your hearts discontent, and therby fall to dangerous sickness, thou shalt encrease my griefe that loueth thee, and afflict on your selfe such a mischiefe as all thy frienos will græue to behold.

Pardon me deare friend (quoth she) and since thou art mute and wilt not say what thou thinkest, let me gesse, take

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these keyes, the guard of thine owne treasury, which shall conduct thee to more coyne then all Cheryes can affoord : besides my Plate and rare Jewels, (all which) with what else I possess, bestow, sell, or otherwise imploy at thy pleasure : only I craue, thou frolicke, and cast from thee these passions : if this will not suffice, what commodities this Countrey affordeth, bargain for, I and my friends will furnish thee with them, on our credites : then my sweete Loue, seeing all, and all I haue is at thy commaund, leaue longer thus to care, and shew thy selfe as thou seemest, so shalt thou fill my heart with ioy, command in Cheryes, and be honoured of my Noble friends for my sake.

James that with great pleasure heard the wordes of his sweete Lady, spoken in loue, and tender regarde of his good health, was more reuiued, then Rosa solies, or Aqua Celsities a fainting spirit : for which, yielding praise to God for his comfort in this distresse, rendering all courteous thanks to Petronella, whom faithfully he assured to abolish all things should be displeasing vnto her, assuring her on the faith of an Englishman, that what she would request he would fulfill : and on this profer, a solemne vow was consummate betwene them, violable to endure to the ende of their liues. Taking their lodging together, and full possession of all the wealth he had sene, they passed the night in content. Petronella blessed in her choyse: having some doubt, that James through his long abroad in Spaine, had learned the manner of her Country-men, who care not for a widow in marriage, how vniuerstie so euer he be, and the widowe of good account, especially the Noble and Gentlemen.

This thought arising in Petronella, which was loth to exchange her Loue, caused her early in the morning to send for her Confessor, vnto whom she revealed what had past, and had absolution : by whome all rites and holy ceremonies was in the Chamber performed betwixt them, for which he was well rewarded, and they both pleased. Petronella at her husbands request, entreateth the holy Father to consecret what was

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was done, till time should giue leave to summon his friends to their marriage, to which he said Amen. And taking leave, departed to his Colledge, James to his Countrey men, with whom he frolikes: Petronella to her prayers, thanking God for so good and kinde a husband.

CHAP. XXI.

How *William* by one of his neighbours was aduertised of *James* his bad fortunes, and how *William* gaue him his answer.



It is commonly seene, that ill tydings suddenly runne farre, as by this bad fortune of *James* appeared, who hauing in his prosperitie many louing and kind friends, that loued him dearly, at his downfall hath shewed themselves secret enemies, rather reioysing at his misfortunes, then any way tendering it. Amongst which enuious company, one being kinsman to a Marchant for whom *William* was factor, by the first Post aduertised in his Letters *James* his prodigalitie, particularly as it happened. The report whereof, was no sooner come, but *William* by his neighbour was aduertised thereof. The suddaine hearing whereof, somewhat appalled him, hauing his best part of wealth with him, yet pacifying choller, and framing himselfe to patience, he againe perused the contents of the Letters, the effect and particulars whereof, when aduisedly he considered, rather commended *James* for his good minde, doing his Countrey that honour, not to be dared with so great a Prince, but more admired his high spirit, scorning to receiue the one halfe offered him by the Duke. With these conceits being reasonably pacified, turning him to his neighbour thus said.

For it is your bad hap to be the first messenger of any ill happe befallen me, and I pray God you may be the last: for your losse, I am more sozie then for mine owne: which I

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will see in some sort recompenced, in my mans behalfe: shewe me your accounts, and bate me but ten in the hundred, and I will cleave you. Provided this, that you do not by any scandalous speech depraue my seruants reputation, that hath shewed him selfe a true Englishman, and by his losse gained his Country honour: preferring his reputation before coyne, and his credit aboue his life, for which I commend him: and ioi to heare he hath no otherwaies consumed my substance, nor what he had of other mens: and while I liue, his good desert shall be thought on, farre beyond those puling Traitors his Country men, that held it no dishonour to be by a straunger dared.

William being so earnest in his man Iames his cause, his neighbour was soi to see him so moued, being of such countenance in the Citie, besought him of patience, desiring him, for that the example of riot was perilous to be knowne amongst seruants, he would conseale it, and reforme his seruants at home, who spend their money in Tavernes liberally, and procured theirs to do the like, and others: all consuming, both their goods and their owne stocks.

William, who tendered his seruants as himselfe, hearing this complaint, was more displeased then before: charging him with great unkindnesse in such manner to withhold his lone from his people, who were for the most part Gentlemen of worship, being in number twentie, very proper men, well maintained, and of good education, the most of them, commonly on his affaires in other Countries: said in very great anger.

Sir, sir, if your coming be to no other ende, then to teach me to order my seruants, you might haue kept you still, where I care not how soone you be gone: if thou decayest thy wealth consumeth too fast, looke more heedfully to them that spend it: for my men, what they do I allow: nor wil I fauour any one of them, that shall more account of his purse, then my credit: or dareth not spend an Angell with the best, being better men of byrth then my selfe, for as they spend they get: therfore if thou fearest their expences and doubtst thy people, keepe thee at home with them, and looke better to their doings: and for my
man

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man Iames, I wil be thy pay-maister, bzing thy bills, & receiue thy money: but vse him in thy words well, least thou heare of it, and so when you will, begone: but neuer hereafter trouble me moze with thy complaints, for it shall not any thing auaille thee.

Here shewed William the perfect loue of a Maister to his seruants, whom he loued moze deare then his childe: neither should any wrong the poorest he kept: such was his care of them, that euery day their dyet was provided with his own, and if his guests were but ordinary, they diet at his own table, or very neare him, where they would: amongst themselves, in name of good Beare, which they plentifully had, dranke Claret Wine, and Hacke with Sugar in Stone Pottes: which though he suddenly met with diuers times, yet would he rather smile, then take in ill part any of their honest doings.

CHAP. XXII.

How *William* and his friend *Oliver*, accompanied with *Otho* of *Plimouth*, passed to *Spaine*.



William that had a great stay on his man Iames, albeit he concealed fro the worlds watchfull eyes his conceit of him, and the greefe for his losse, had this comfort: that Iames being so braue and gallant a Marchant, either by his credit or friends would make all whole againe. Yet could he not be pacified, vntill hee might know the certaine estate of his Iames. which hee was perswaded, wold neuer be by reports, men being so diuersly giuen: some to speake well, others to defame: for his better contentment, he acquainted his old friend *Oliver*, who concluded to fraight a small Barke, with some commodities, to defray charges, and vnknowne to any, no not to their wiues, to passe for *Spaine*: and for this voyage, hauing provided their goods, left their homes, in charge to their seruants, and to *Plymouth* they are come:

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centr: of whose arriuall there, when Ocho had notice, hee
sought, and found them. Whom he invited as his guesstes to
lodge in his house: where they were very welcome, and roy-
ally feasted. Ocho walking on the hore, with his companions,
demanded whether they came to buy commodities, or to
ship some from thence. From whom they concealed their pre-
sence, framing an answer that past for currant, betooke them
to other parley: and sundry wayes, day by day, deferring time,
vntill their Barke was ready, and halled into the sound, onely
attending the coming of William and Oliver: who onely
had made the Maister priuie to their voyage to Cales, and
their intent to carrie Ocho with them for company: laying the
plot to get him aboard, which they easily accomplished, seeing
the Bark in the sound, framed an excuse, to deliuer Letters for
their men at Cales: so aboard in the ships boate they came, and
were entertained in the Maisters Cabine, with such vyands
as was for them provided: passing the time so merrily, that
by the time Ocho thought to go a shoze, they had sight of the
Lizard: whereat he being astonied, the company in merr-
ment comforted, when acquainting him with their businesse,
he was better content: his chiefest care was for linnen and ap-
parell, which they promised to supply. Ocho, when he saw no
remedie, began to frolike with the best, shortning their voyage
with pleasant conceits.

Scantly had one whole weeke past his course, but drawing
neare the Coast, and the day faire and cleare, a boy from the
top descried the Clifts of Cales, the Roade reconering in good
time: where displaying S. George, well were they could first
get aboarde to learn: the newes: no sooner our English Lib-
gers entred the Barke, but finding those three friends, to most
of them well knowne, they heartily welcommed them to that
shoze. Like entertainment gaue the visitors vnto them, who
albeit they were strangers, by their factors, had knowledge
of their great wealth, and what countenance they beare in their
Countrey.

Their salutations ended, William enquireth of a trustie
friend

Marchants of Devonshire.

friend to James the newes of him, and where he was. Harrie Sir, in good time (quoth the Marchant, you arrive, to be a guest at his marriage. And drawing a Letter which by Post from Cheryes that day he receiued, gave it him to read: wherein he invited all his countreyment to his marriage, with a relation of the fortunes befallen him, since his leaving Calles: which was great ioy to them all to heare, but most contented William, whom most it concerned: which made him thus pleasantly to beseech the company, to conceale their being, and with all expedition to land their commodities. Which done, (quoth he) like Countrey men and good fellows, we will all go to him, as he requesteth: James is a good fellow, and may do as much for you. This a very good motion (quoth the company) wherefore to dispatch our businesse, let vs a shooze, and provide our necessaries. To which they conscended, taking their lodging in the English house, where their welcome was great: there that night they reposed themselves, and the next day entered their goods in the custome house, and laid it a shooze: against which time, waggons and horses were provided for their iourney to Cheryes, where merrily they went, each one glad of others company, sundrily decoursing of James and his fortunes, with much varietie to beguile time.

CHAP. XXIII.

How the English Marchants arrived at *Cheryes*, with their welcomes.

This pleasant company made such speed, that they drew neare their iourneys ende: whither by the height of the Sunne, they perceiued (it was likely holding on they way) that they should come thither too early: wherefore instantly finding a place both pleasant and delightfull, they reposed themselves under the *Pomegranet* and *Dreng*, trees, pleasing their owne fancies

A pleasant discourse of sixe gallant
fancies with those fruites, and spending the day with such pa-
stimes as was meet.

Time that stayeth not, calleth them so: wards: before their
taking horse, the auncient English Marchants, William, Oli-
uer, and O. ho, having a desire to trie their welcomes, thought
it fit, to enter the Towne before the company, and lodge se-
cretly in some other Inn, untill the solemnitie of the wedding
was consummate. And to this ende, desired the company of
kindnesse so to let it passe, and to conseale their being there.

The young men which durst not gaine say their Masters,
condiscended, granting them license to take their own course:
and thereupon, directions being given, the Masters hastneth
to the towne, taking their lodging, closely keeping them in their
Chambers. About two houres after, and not long before the
Sunnes downe full in the West, these gallant Marchants, in
their bzauerie, all curiously mounted, entered the Towne, ta-
king their lodging in the best Osterie in the Towne: of whose
comuning, James being aduertised, he suddenly made his re-
paire vnto the before they could shift their apparell, where you
need not doubt of their welcome by James given, to that place,
where he intended to be a free-Demison: as appeared by his
cost and kind blage: which with all kindnesse he shewed, in
their iolytie carowling healthes to all their friends in Eng-
land: especially by name those worthy Patrons, William O-
liuer, and Otho, who they all very heartily wished present.
But William chiefly was most desired by James, who little
suspected he was so neare.

Thus met these gallant youtnes with ioy and great con-
tent, that not long since parted with sorrow and effusion
of teares: here was their olde passed sportes reuiued, and
their friendship acknowledged, with firme confirmance vow-
ed each to others, euery man heartily reioycing for James his
good fortune.

At the good speed of this mirth, and knitting vp this new
league, James his wife who had notice of their being, and
what company they were, richly attiring her selfe, came to
the

Marchants of Denonshire.

the place where they all were: where she in all courteous manner, welcommed them to Cheryes. Beseeching them, of that loue and courtesie they beare their Countreyman her Husband, to accept his house for their lodging: where how homely so euer, your welcomes shall not be bettered amongst your dearest friends in England.

This kinde profer of the Lady, so courteous and hartly performed, the Marchants admired, commending Iames his choise, to be absolute, the worthiest in all Spaine, for betwixt wealth, and good entertainment, wherein they thought him blessed. Returning her many thanks for her kindnesse: besought pardon and libertie to take their pleasures in their lodging, which were like otherwaies to be troublesome vnto her, and her Husband. To which request, though unwilling, she condescended. Taking her leaue for that time, committed them to their ease and best content.

CHAP. XXIII.

How Iames with his wifes honorable friends being at their cheare, was visited of William and his companions, and their welcome.



The honest yong men which accompanied William and his friends to Cheryes, concealed their secret being in the Towne, that it was not knowne to any but themselves: where two dayes after their arrivall and great entertainment by Iames and his wife, that holy rights of Wedlocke was openly confirmed at the Church in presence of many of honor and great estimation, which betwixt them and the Priest, long before was consummat. to the good liking of both the parties, their friends, and honourable Kins. Which done, great was their cheare, and ioyes moze abundant, where so good content was equally ballanced.

William and his company hearing by their espials, how the time of dinner grew to end, was conducted to the Bywall house, where they intended to make triall of their welcome: who by a messenger, gaue Iames to vnderstand, that certaine Marchants lately arrived from England, desired to see him. Which Iames hearing, gaue charge should be brought in. Iames sitting in his Chamber as Master of the feast, was attired in a gowne of wrought Veluet, a faire Chaine about his necke, and other Abilliments fitly ordered. Was

A pleasant discourse of sixe gallant

Bride richly lated, sitting by him. William beholding his man in this worshipfull manner, admired it: but more to see that honorable company: whom he saluted with dutifull reuerence. James seeing his Maister, on whom his thoughts least harped on: and those other his ancient friends, albeit he could willingly haue done them that dutie to him appertaining: yet kept his place and countenance for that time: bidding them with a courage, welcome to Cheryes: commanding them to take their places as they came: where being set, James thus began.

Fellow William, of all the men England might afford, the best welcome to this place: especially at this time, where so lately you haue bene often witht. Braue Gallants of that noble Citie of Exeter, your companies hath cheared my spirits, to see you all kinde louers and friends: fall to your byands, and be merrie, for you shall all haue cause to be merrie here, as you shall finde.

These kind shewes of loue and courtesie, William and his friends more accepted, then if his supposed lost monies had bene instantly tendered him: the conceit whereof, being eyewitnesse of James happinesse, and that honour done him by the states present: for ioy made him forbear his dyet, but hardly teares: vnto whom, and his company, James carued often, drinkeing healths vnto them & their friends in England. Which fauour, the whole company noted: who iudged them to be of worth: their countenance and attire shewing it. To whose welcome, the Spaniards in honour of James and his wife, added many good and kinde speeches of fauour, which was more then ordinary in that proud Nation: all which, the graue Englishmen with like courtesie returned.

Dinner ended with much mirth and pleasure, James in all louing and dutifull maner, embraced his Maister William: and his friends rendering more then a Million of thanks for their paines that boachased to honour him so, vnerpected at that solemnitie: yet could not his minde be satisfied, doubting some extraordinary occasion brought them thither: loath that any question should be made of his ill husbandrie in the Towne, taking William into his withdrawing Chamber, he said.

Deare Maister, and especiall friend: that you boachased this undertaken paines, to witnesse my happinesse this day, I render thanks: yet greatly feare, your coming so secret, and only trauell, hath bene on reports of my misdeemeanor: for which, I am the more sorie, that

Marchants of Devonshire.

that you whose years require rest, should in your age be so cumbered. But how euer, I am glad to see you: and for your goods mispent, no losse to you shall rebound: but your accounts, and all men of your Cittie, whose trust I was, shall be with such profit cleared, as you and they, shall haue no cause to blame my riotous demeanour. William to quite his servant, hearing him so kinde to comfort him, and giue no occasion to discontent, frankly acquitted him of all debts due to him: and for his coming at that time excused it, of a voluntarie match made with the Maister of the Barke, hauing his two friends a boord, and the Barke bound for Cales, to bring them on a waies away. While they were in their earnest talke, the Bride hauing some business, or taking occasion to giue them their Bene-Venew, seeing such shewes of loue between them, bad them according to their Countrey manner, very welcome. Beseeching them, to take her house for their stay during their stay: wherein they should honour their Countreyman her Husband, and do her great faueur. To which, William and his Comperes were easily intreated, the rather to see the order and manner of entertainment of the Spanish Gentlewoman, which they found costly, louing, and very kinde to James and all his friends, as they could command no more in their owne houses.

CHAP. XXV.

How *Oliuer* and *Otho* at the house of a gallant Curtizan, was robbed of their money and apparell.

JAMES in the Haven of Blisse, ioyfull of his good friends company, loath on the sudden to forgo them: by great suite of his wife, whom they all honoured for her kindnesse shewed, consented to spend their time, fiftene dayes with them to Irolike: where hauing leisure, they viewed the Churches and Monuments of the same, and all other places of content or pleasure. Wandring thus through the Towne, Oliver and Otho being alone, chanced to passe by the house of a most rare and bewtiful Curtizan: who espying these strangers, seated her in a window opposite with the street, playing on her Lute. To whose tunes, two others chaunted excellent Ditties: vnto which, Oliver and Otho gaue good care: viewing and noting their persons and beutie, sometimes passing too and fro by the window: which the Curtizan perceiuing, as they that were not to learn all fashions, sent her Pandoza vnto them, inuiting them to taste a Cup of their Wine.

A pleasant discourse of fixe gallant

Orcho like men forgetting themselves, was suddenly entreated: entered into hells mouth, or the diuels apion: where they found the gallant descended into a lower roome to entertaine her pray, whom with kinde embracements, and shewes of fauour, she welcomemed.

These courtesies, when Orcho and his companion saw, as they that could their behauiour to all estates, returned her thanks with like fauour, gratifying her kindnesse.

The Curtizan which saw the fish nibling at the bait, to bring them within such, as wel with pleasant parley as her other delights, thus said.

Gentlemen (so: so I must call you) if vertue with your graces and attire ioyne in sympathy, straungers you seeme: and it may be, a gentlewoman's courtesie, by your nice curiositie, misconstrued, & our kindnesse with froward scandalls rewarded: blame me not Gentiles, to censure the worst: Strangers you seeme, whom courtesie commands be wel entreated: and so much the rather haue I dained you this fauour so: Englands honor: of whence, if I gett not ariue, you are: of which Nation I more tender the welfare, then of my native Countrey men: if vnder correction I may so say.

ardon Amoy, honourable Englishmen, that am so plaine, womens tongues are long hanged, and their hearts thoughts at the end therof: but howeuer you please to censure of my speech, if a Gentlewoman's courtesie be not reiect, vouchsafe to accept a Cup of Wine, a Lymon, and a peece of Sugar: this is all your cheare, but your welcome as much, as if my gracious Duke were present.

The Marchants, albeit the conditions of those alluring Syrens were sufficiently knowne, yet was their mindes so besotted, that forgetting wise, children, and the rumours of euill speech, both hauing lustfull desires, Orcho foremost in the onset, thus said.

Gentlewoman, like Villes enchanted companions, so are we overtaken, wondering at your beuotie and other good vertues: but more admiring your courtesie, vouchsafing in such familiaritie to accept of vs, wherein you shew your diuine nature, so: nothing is so acceptable as courtesie: which if we reiect, should degenerate from what men ought, and shame our Countrey. With this gentle parley they fell to tasting their wine, and so to Chesses and Pexmirc, till the day was spent, when they made haste to their lodging. But no ercules might serue, but sup they must, and afterwards hauing had good store of wine, to sleepe bedtime drawing neare, the Curtizan not assured

Marchants of Deuonshire.

assured of her pray, merrily said. Gentlemen, I see our harsh musicke sounds not in your eares, they iarre too much: I wish your delight, and gladly would haue you frolike if there be any thing in my powre to content you. By your fauour (quoth Orho) if a man should chalenge your word, you would be the first that would recant. If I doe (quoth she) let me be turned for an Heretick. I am very soze your hard opinion is such of me: for be it said, albeit not vaingloriously, neuer gaue I such cause to any Gentleman, to haue such thoughts on me: for what I promise, I leperforme. If it were the losse of my maydenhead, by holy S. Iulian I swear. Pay, nay (quoth Oliuer) I swear not so vainely: yea, and nay. Cock and Pye, are sufficient for honest dealers. Trust me Lady, for my part, if I promise you, or any these pratie soules to be their bedfellow, you may take my bare word without any oath: if I faile, burne my Cap, and say Cut's a Jade. Is plaine dealing such a Jewell amongst you Englishmen (quoth she) and is it my good fortune to finde it? If you were of our Spanish minds, I should soone trie what mettall you English Marchants are made of: for your Gentlemen are gallants that I know by good proofe, hauing a Pilgrimage by holy vow to S. Iames in Galisia, it was my good hap, to encounter for like deuotion, a Gentleman of England, whom I found so kinde, that for his sake, what ere he be shall come in my Pater Noster, he and his Countrey men are in my credit. Let that word stand (quoth Orho) and Distresse, because an earnest penny vnder, I take this swete farnie to mine owne, to haue and hold it this night, and for it there's my pawne, kissing her sweetely on the lips. As the Distresse, so her seruants proued Cassells, gentle enough to come at any lute: how lostie so euer they Tower, downe they come with the Murren. as these honest Marchants found to their costs: who were scantly quietly laid in their beds, but a crew of Russians, birds of this nest, entred the house, swearing and tormenting with bitter catches, they were assured some villaine was in the house, which they would finde. At which words, the Curtizan seemed to feare her husbands terroz, and cried mainly out. Oh Sir, I am vndone: this is my husband returned from the Court, who if he finde you, will murder you. While they were in this feare, the Russians brake the doores, with two or thre Loarches, entred the chamber, trailed the Curtizan by the haire from their bed, & threatened them with death. The Marchants in feare, pleaded for pittie: whereunto no regard was giuen: but like tyzants they raigned ouer them.

A pleasant discourse of fixe gallant

them: untill one of the companie in coole tearmes, calling the chiefe by the name of brother, entreated for them, and perswaded him to be as they seemed, men harmlesse, and for their Countrey, to which he bowd loue, besought him let them passe. To whose words he began somewhat to listn, medigated his rage, content to let the birds goe, but so pruned them, that they had neither money; Jewell or apparell left, but naked in their shirts, driven out at dores: threatned vehemently, that if they made any rumour of their losse, whereby any trouble might ensue, their liues should make them recompence.

With this admonition, Ocho and Oliuer lightly attired for sweating, walked the streets, and was by the Watch surprized: who enquiring the cause of their late walking, excused themselves, being strangers, that as they were taking ayze of the fields, they were by vagrant people, spoiled of all they had, and bound: where they had continued all the night without rescue, if one by fortune had not relieved the other: who besought the Watch to be their conduct to the house of Don Iaques de Enyloeroe, where they lodged: who like kinde people shewed them that courtesie, and were let in: excusing them in like manner, to William, and their host James and his wife: with whom their counterfeited copie went for currant, and was of them pittied: but most of the Spanish Gentlewoman benoned, that tendered more their welfare then her owne nearest of blood. The Donelles glad that it past so well of their sides, without more suspect, kept their owne counsellies, and was neuer knowne but in icast in England, betweene themselves.

CHAP. XXVI.

How James at his Maister William his departure, cleared his accounts, and his recompence, with the courtesie of his wife.



The time of Williams promise with his ancient servant James, for his stay after the marriage, grow now to end, and a parting time was come, how loath soever: against which, James by his factors, had provided readie at Cale. to be laden, the best Spice, Wines, and Sugar, with costly and rich Marchandise, the Countrey could afford, or money in many sought places might procure. William and his friends being all wearied of that

Marchants of Deuonshire.

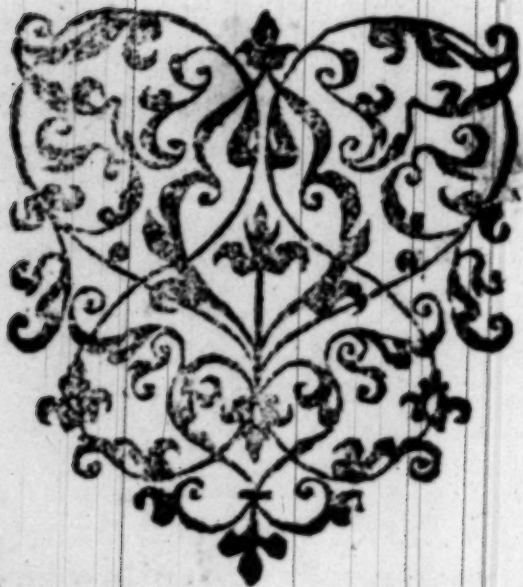
that ydle life, hauing some businesse for fraught of their ship, could not be intreated longer to make their abode there. But prouiding for their iourney, Iames and his wife protested by religious oathes, to accompanie them to their Porte, which they performed: passing the time, by easie iournies, pleasantly solacing themselves, till they came to Cales: against whose arrivall, the seruants of Iames had puruayed their lodgings verie bountifull: in which they reposed them that night. Next morning gaue order for sale of their goods, and lading the Barke: which albeit, by those that undertook it, was suddenly done, yet Iames his owne ship and goods was as readie to set saile: for whom the wind fauourably blowing, the Maister gaue notice to William and his friends. At their leaue taking, Iames: hauing his billes of lading ready, and small hope euer to see his Maister after that time, made him tender of the monies he owed him, and those summes due to such other Marchants of Exeter he dealt for. Which by no meanes he would be drawne to accept, but for his neighbours willed him to haue regard: otherwise it might proue his greafe to heare him ill spoken of. Which kindnesse, Iames with teares accepted. And on his knees craving pardon, besought his Maister to grant him one request, which William bouchsafed.

Then say, for your neighbours (quoth he) for whom you wish recompence, to my honest Countreyemen there left behinde you, their stocks with interest I will deliuer, for the whole time I haue detained the same. For your selfe, whom I know not how to deserue so great fauour, be now your words warrantise: for so I challenge your graunt: that seeing money or other commodities for that great summe, lewdly wasted by me, you wil not accept, in all humblenesse to my good Distresse commend mee, and as a poore votary to her and you, deliuer these Letters, and other Papers therein closed. This ship halled into the Roade, shall waite vpon you, wherein I haue some seruants to attend you: if for your better ease, you will bouchsafe of her before your owne appointed Barke: and so in gods peace at your pleasure goe aboard.

William circumuented by Iames, could not tell what thanks to giue him, waying his loue and dutifull minde: though loath, would not gaine say his vrgent request, but returned him many thanks: and after a solemne farewell taken by their friends, aboard they wēt, commended by Iames and his wife to happie fortune at sea, who could not forbear effusion of many teares, for the losse of so good company.

A pleasant discourse of fixe gallant
pany. Who with rich Jewels and much store, commended her to the
father and mother of Iames, and Williams wife. Taking their last
Adieu, they stayed to see them vnder saile, sorrowing at full, for
their departure: whom the heauens so fauoured, that in lesse then
eight dayes, they recovered the haven of Dorthmouth: from whence
taking horse, they posted to Exeter, where they were all heartily
welcome. Having reposed themselves two or three dayes, William
by his seruants, gaue order for discharge of his goods, feasted the
Spaniards, and them richly rewarded: deliuered Iames and his
wiues tokens to all his friends, in presence of his men, to whom he
made a great banquet: recounting at large their sonnes estate, with
his happie fortune, enioying so louing and kinde a wife. Shortly af-
ter, furnishing the Spanissh ship, with vendable commodities into
that countrey, he dispatched them, with his kind Letters, and many
Tokens, from sundry friends. So resting himself in quiet, he en-
ioyed the blessing of God in that most famous Citie: a
Patrone and father of the state, vntill the end
of his dayes, which was not sudden:
as hereafter shall be shewed.

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